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LG interacts with 120-member delegation of Pahari Community at Raj Bhawan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with the 120-member delegation of Pahari Community at Raj Bhawan on Monday.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to ensure that the benefits of Scheduled Tribes reservation is extended to Pahari, Padari, Koli and Gadda Brahmin this year and they are included in the Tribal plan schemes.

The prominent Pahari leaders conveyed their



heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for empowering the Pahari community while safeguarding the interest of Gujjar, Bakarwals and

other listed tribes. "We are all brothers and working with aim

of nation-building," the Pahari community members said.

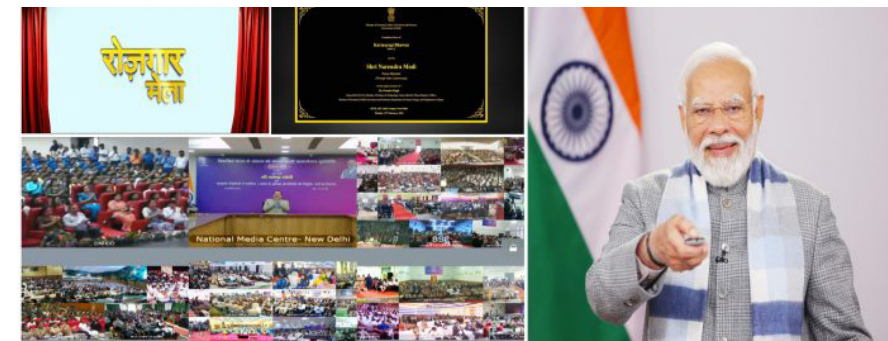
Muzaffar Hussain Baig, former Deputy Chief Minister lauded the Central Government and the UT Administration for fulfilling the long pending demands of the Paharis and other communities.

Rafiq Shah, a Pahari leader said that after 75 year of political and social slavery, Justice has been delivered. He said, today we are feeling empowered and free.

Senior leader Vibodh Gupta said that

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Rozgar Melas crucial in enhancing youth contribution to nation building: PM Modi



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today distributed

more than 1 lakh appointment letters to newly inducted recruits via video conferencing. He also laid the foundation stone of

Phase I of the Integrated Complex "Karmayogi Bhavan" in New Delhi. This complex

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PM likely to visit J&K after BJP's working group meeting, national convention

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir any day after the BJP working Group meeting, which is scheduled for February 17 and 18 in New Delhi.

Party sources told news agency, Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development works running into thousands of crores during his day long visit to Jammu. He is also scheduled to address a rally in Jammu during which he kick-starts BJP's campaign for Lok Sabha elections,

which are scheduled to be held between April and May this year.

"The ruling BJP has convened a national convention in Bharat Mandapam for February 17-18, coinciding with the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The convention will feature a two-day key meeting, inaugurated by party president JP Nadda, and concludes with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's closing address. After the convention, Prime Minister likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir," party sources said

They added that as per tentative schedule Prime

Minister is likely to visit Jammu as well as Srinagar on February 20, but the tour schedule is being finalized and is expected to be released in the next couple of days.

The Prime Minister is likely to address a massive rally in Jammu besides inaugurating a series of development projects including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Vijaypur in Samba, the highest Railway Bridge, which will link Kashmir with rest of the country by rail this year, in Reasi district, Devika Rejuvenation project at Udhampur,

IIM Jammu and Shahpur Kandi Redevelopment Plan.

A number of other projects have also been identified for inauguration while Modi will also lay the foundation stone of various other development works in Jammu and Kashmir. Inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of projects is expected to be done from one place.

The train to the Valley will take a few more months but there is a proposal to run trains beyond Banihal i.e. up to Khari where nearly

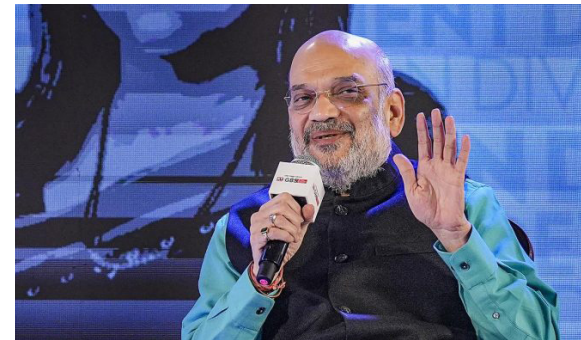
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BJP will win 370 seats, NDA more than 400 seats in Lok Sabha polls: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, FEB 12

Union Minister Amit Shah on Monday said there is no suspense in the people's minds on the outcome of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as the ruling BJP is set to win 370 seats and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will bag more than 400 seats.

Shah also took a swipe at the Congress and said out of the 10-year rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first five years went in filling up the "pit" dug by the opposition party, when it ruled the



country, and another five years in laying the foundation (of development). "Make him (Modi) the prime minister for the third term and a magnificent building will come up on the foundation at a

very fast pace," the senior BJP leader said here after launching Rs 1,950 crore development projects of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).

"I was in Karnataka yesterday, and visited 11

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ED summons Dr Farooq in money laundering case today

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Enforcement Directorate on Monday summoned National Conference (NC) President and incumbent Member of Parliament, Dr Farooq Abdullah for questioning in a case related to money laundering tomorrow (February 13).

Official sources told the news agency that Dr Farooq has been summoned by the ED for questioning regarding alleged money laundering.

He has been asked to visit its office tomorrow (February 13).

Talking to KNO, Dr Farooq however, said that he won't be able to visit the office of ED as he is presently in Jammu. "I will visit the office once I reach Srinagar," he said. KNO

Santosh D Vaidya to hold charge of J&K's Home deptt

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered that Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department shall hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Home department till further orders.

As per news agency, Vaidya has been

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Govt orders transfer, postings of several Police officers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

The government on Monday ordered transfer and postings of several Police officers with immediate effect in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, Anayat Ali Choudhary, IPS, awaiting posting upon repatriation from Union territory of Ladakh, is posted as AIG (Procurement) PHQ. One post of Superintendent of Police from overall reserve shall be utilized for purpose of drawl of salary of the officer.

Master Popsy, Addl. SP Reasi, is transferred and posted as Dy.CO IR-7th Bn., against an available vacancy. Ch. Iftkhar Ahmed, awaiting posting upon repatriation from Union territory of Ladakh, is posted as Addl. SP Pulwama, against an available vacancy. Feroz Ahmad Qadri, Dy.CO IR-5th Battalion, is transferred and posted as SP

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3 siblings charred to death in Ramban blaze

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEB 12

Three teenage sisters were charred to death in an overnight blaze at a remote village in Ramsosub division of Ramban district, an official said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary told the news agency, that an unfortunate fire incident took place overnight at Tajnihal area of Ukherhal tehsil in which three siblings died.

"Three sisters were asleep in the house, which caught fire in the night and all of them burnt alive," he said, adding that



the house has also been damaged in the incident.

DC said the district administration has provided an immediate relief of Rs 3 lakh to the aggrieved family, further compensation and support will be provided as per the State Disaster Response Fund

(SDRF) norms.

The deceased have been identified as Bisma Jan (14), Saika Jan (12) and Saniya Jan (16)—all daughters of Abdul Latief Lone of Tajnihal village in Ramban, the officials said, adding that the cause of the fire was yet to be

ascertained. Meanwhile, Democratic Azad Progressive Party Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

In a post on X, Azad wrote, "My deepest condolences to the family of the three sisters who tragically lost their lives in a devastating fire incident last night in Tajnihal Danmasta area of Ramsosub Banihal. Urging the government to provide compensation and support to the grieving family during this difficult time!"

National Conference (NC) President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice-president Omar Abdullah

express profound shock and sorrow upon learning of the tragic demise of three minor sisters in a devastating fire in Ramsosub area of Ramban district.

They extended heartfelt condolences and prayers to the bereaved family during this difficult time. Furthermore, District President Ramban and CI Banihal Sajjad Shaheen join in expressing deep sorrow and urge the administration to swiftly provide ample compensation and assistance to the affected family."

Apni Party President, Altaf Bukhari, said, "My heartfelt condolences to the grieving family

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Jammu police produces charge-sheet in terror case

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

The Jammu Police on Monday presented a challan in the court of 3rd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu (NIA) against two persons in a terror case.

A police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency said that Jammu Police presented a challan in the court of 3rd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu (NIA) against two persons identified as Abdul Waris, son of Abdul Rashid of Asthan Pain Tehsil & District Kishtwar & Masrat Hussain, son of Ghulam Qadir

and Masrat Hussain S/O Ghulam Qadir R/O Bhatyas Tehsil Gandoh District Doda, police said.

Upon checking, the cash Rs 50,000 from each & several anti national, incriminating materials including printed letter pads of banned terror outfits were recovered from their possession.

Upon this, a case was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort Jammu and investigation thereof started.

During the course of investigation both the accused persons were arrested & during

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J&K braces up for 3-day wet spell from Feb 18

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

While Jammu and Kashmir continues to record a rise in maximum temperatures, the weatherman here has predicted a three-day wet spell from February 18, saying that higher reaches in Southern district would likely receive moderate to heavy snowfall.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told the news agency that the weather would remain mostly dry till February 17 while the day temperature is expected to rise further in coming days.

He added that a three-day wet spell is expected



from February 18 during which the light to moderate snowfall is expected. "There is a forecast of light to moderate snowfall in higher reaches while plains are expected to witness light rains or snow," he said.

"The higher reaches of south Kashmir parts would likely receive moderate to

heavy snowfall during the period," he said.

The MeT Director further said that the maximum temperature has risen in most parts of J&K and it is expected to go up by a few more degrees in the coming days.

Moreover, the parts of Kashmir have continued to record sub-zero tempera-

tures. In Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K has recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature today settled at 11.3 degrees Celsius.

The coldest place was Pahalgam at minus 7.0 degree Celsius while the day temperature settled at 8.6 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 4.5 degree Celsius while the day temperature settled at 5.0 degree Celsius. Kupwara however, was the hottest today at 12.6 degree Celsius while the night temperature settled at minus 4.4 degree Celsius.

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Prominent political, social personalities join BJP in Jammu, Katra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Prominent political and social activists joined BJP in two separate events at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu and one event at Katra.

Satish Shastri State Secretary J&K Congress, along with more than 150 supporters joined BJP at the party headquarter.

Nakul Mattoo Former Corporator Srinagar, Waquar Chaudhary, through Abhinav Anand along with 200 Supporters joined on the occasion.

Hundreds joined BJP in presence of BJP district President Rohit Dubey in Katra.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, accompanied by convenor BJP joining committee Balwant Singh Mankotia, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Neha Mahajan and other party leaders welcomed the new entrants



in separate events.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, welcoming the new entrants in the party fold, said that the people have made up their minds to support and vote for BJP to re-elect Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India in 2024. He said that to strengthen the ongoing public welfare policies of Modi government in its 3rd term, people in large numbers are daily joining the party, so that PM Modi could lead the government more decisively

for the public welfare works and to ensure the unprecedented development of India. He said that the party believes that the new entrants will work for the public welfare keeping the party ethics in mind.

Balwant Singh Mankotia, speaking on the occasion, said that the prominent faces belonging to different political and social organizations are themselves approaching the party leaders to join hand with the BJP party, which always strives to

work for the betterment of nation and society

Satish Shastri thanked the party stalwarts for according the warm welcome into the party fold and said that he has returned to his home now. He said that he will do everything to propagate the policies and achievements of Modi government which has worked a lot for the upliftment poor and downtrodden.

Nakul Mattoo lauded the efforts of BJP in addressing the genuine needs of

poor and the oppressed. He said that he will leave no stone unturned in carrying out the public welfare and development works initiated by the BJP.

Others who joined BJP along with Satish Shastri, Congress State Secretary include Satpaul Hindu, Bharat Raksha Manch vice president, Raj Kumar Nischal, Tripta Devi, Anil Sharma, Jyoti Devi, Rajesh Gupta, Sarang Sharma, Ankush Shastri, Vijay Shastri, Anju Devi, Geeta Verma, Chaaru Abrol, Ex councillor Ashish Abrol, Raj Kumar Verma vice president, Bishan Lal Sharma joint director information retired, Shefali Sharma, Sunita Sharma, Sudhir Singh, Sunil Sharma, OBC President Sham Lal, Kailash Rani, Deepak Kumar, Ram Lal Shama, Krishna Devi, Asha Rani, Kuldeep Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Ashish Singh, Ramesh Gupta

DDC Chairperson, ADC Ramban meet Dhanmansta fire incident victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 12



On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, a team of senior officers led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Harbans Sharma visited the devastating fire incident site in Panchayat Dhanmasta in block Ramssoo, Tehsil Ukhral.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, expressed profound sympathy towards the family affected by the devastating fire incident in Dhanmasta. He assured the family that all possible support and financial assistance would be provided to them as per established norms

Expressing the grief and sorrow over the sad demise of three sisters in fire incidents, the ADC conveyed his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family. He directed the Tehsildar concerned to assess the loss

and submit the relief case immediately to provide assistance to victim family.

In a swift response, the District Red Cross Society provided instant relief to the affected family in the morning, demonstrating solidarity and support during this difficult time.

Later, Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan, along with DDC members also visited the affected family to assess the situation and extend support to the victims.

Expressing profound sadness over the loss of the three precious lives in the devastating fire incident, Dr. Shan emphasized the

urgent need for the administration to ensure swift relief and rehabilitation, highlighting the importance of dignified recovery for those impacted. She urged the authorities to take all necessary measures to expedite the rehabilitation process and ensure adequate compensation for the affected family.

She assured the family that every effort would be made to leave no stone unturned in facilitating their recovery from this tragic incident.

She emphasized the administration's commitment to aiding them during this difficult time.

Members of OBC Samaj call on LG



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha met the delegation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) Samaj at Raj Bhawan, today.

The delegation comprised of political leaders and prominent citizens expressed gratitude to the

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and J&K Administration for reservations in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayats in the UT.

It is for the first time OBCs will have reservations for grassroot democratic representation.

Sh Sunil Prajapati, J&K President BJP OBC Morcha;

Sh Rash Pal Verma, National Secretary BJP OBC Morcha; Sh Raj Kumar Tarkhan, General Secretary OBC Morcha; Sh Sajad Kumar, General Secretary OBC Morcha from Kulgam; Retd Brig Vijay Sagar Dhiman; Sh Ramesh Kumar, ex-Sarpanch and other members of the community were present during the interaction.

DC Doda discusses issues of Ex-Servicemen at Zila Sainik Welfare Board Meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, chaired a meeting in the mini hall of the DC office complex to address issues and grievances concerning the ex-servicemen of the district.

Present at the meeting were officials and non-official members of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, including the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Wing Commander Tirath Singh (Retd), besides ACR, SP Headquarter, Programme Officer ICDS and representative of the concerned department.

During the meeting, several concerns were brought to light, including proposals to name government educational institutes, the clock tower in Doda, and the Ganpat Bridge after the name of Martyrs of the district who sacrificed their precious lives for the nation. It was also highlighted that some prominent government assets may be named after Subidar Chuni Lal, a recipient of the Vir Chakra, Sena Medal, and Ashoka Chakra. Other issues discussed included holding of rallies by army authorities, renovation of existing and construction of new assets, renewal of



weapon licenses for ex-servicemen, permission for cricket coaching, and concerns regarding ECHS clinic facilities.

In response to the ex-servicemen's concerns, the DC assured that all issues and grievances would be addressed promptly. He specifically addressed the need for medical specialists at the ECHS clinic and promised to resolve the entry problem near ECHS clinic soon.

Additionally, he emphasized the district administration's unwavering support for army personnel and their causes, expressing solidarity and respect. The DC sought collaboration of the Board in the promotion of "Nasha Muk

Bharat Abhiyan" and suggested organizing fitness camps to prepare future defence service candidates.

The meeting underscored the commitment of the district administration to the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. By addressing various concerns and pledging support, the DC demonstrated a proactive approach to ensure the well-being and recognition of those who have served the nation. The collaborative efforts between the administration and ex-servicemen aim to create a supportive environment and uphold the honour of those who have dedicated their lives to the defence of the nation.

DC Ganderbal reviews utilization of funds under SNP, ICDS services

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 12

To review the implementation of the ICDS sector services and utilization of allocated funds under Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting of ICDS department at V.C Room of DC office, here.

The meeting primarily discussed the utilization of funds allocated under SNP, functioning of Anganwadi Centers, and assessed the gaps in the services delivery.

The DPO informed the meeting that Rs 3, 31, 48000 was allocated to the district out of which over Rs 1.81 Crore has been



utilized and rest amount is pending with all Panchayats of the district for want of procurement of nutrition and approval is pending as the terms of Sarpanches and Panches ended on 9th January 2024.

It was further informed that BDOs concerned have been delegated the powers of Administrator by the Government for a period

of 6 months in place of the Sarpanches.

The DC directed the concerned CDPOs to utilize the funds within 3 days positively, he also directed CDPOs that the amount allocated under ICDS general (Honorarium) and other schemes shall be utilized at an earliest.

Shyambir emphasized the need for seamless coordination among the

AWWs, ASHA workers, and other field functionaries to enhance the effectiveness of services to the targeted children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women.

He reiterated that strong willingness of the officers and officials of ICDS Department is must to eradicate malnutrition, hunger and to implement the non-formal pre-school education and necessary immunization of children between ages 0 to 6 years in the district.

The review meeting was attended by District Programme Officer ICDS, G.R Wani; Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad; BDOs, CDPOs Supervisors and other concerned.

Principal Secretary reviews implementation of credit linked schemes of APD

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, today chaired a meeting to review implementation of credit linked schemes of Agriculture Production Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Threadbare discussion was held on various credit linked schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) loan Product, Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme (AIF), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, High Density Plantation (HDP) scheme, Kissan Credit Card (KCC) and Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).

The Principal Secretary stressed upon the bankers and the concerned officers to develop synergy for effective implementation of credit related schemes of APD to ensure that all the eligible farmers across the UT are benefited. He said that sanctioning and subsequent disbursement process has to be simple. "Rejections need to be minimized and hand-holding of aspiring bor-



rowers need to be done so that benefits of all these schemes reach to the eligible farmers," he added.

He impressed upon the Banks and line departments alike for disposal of pendency on urgent basis besides calling for viable and quality Detailed Projects Reports (DPRs) of loan projects by availing services of technically qualified resources. He directed the concerned officers to redouble their efforts in further raising the number of PM Fasal Yojana beneficiaries so that the set targets are achieved in full.

The Principal Secretary directed the agriculture department of both the divisions to educate the farmers regarding the benefits of Fasal Bima Yajana and related schemes tailored for their socio-economic empowerment. He also asked the officers to

ensure that all the pending cases lying with their different departmental units are sorted out within the shortest possible time. He asked them to ensure coverage of all eligible farmers under these schemes in a mission mode.

Expressing concern over poor performance by certain districts, the Principal Secretary issued strict instructions to the concerned to step up efforts and streamline their functioning further to achieve the set targets.

Earlier, the agriculture department gave a detailed presentation on the achievements recorded during the current year, so far, besides highlighting several issues impeding smooth implementation of schemes on ground.

Director J&K Bank Limited, Chief General Manager, NARBARD, J&K, Director Sericulture Department, Director General Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, Director General Planning Agriculture Production Department, Director Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Director Horticulture Department Jammu/Kashmir, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, Director Finance APD, Director Fisheries Department, J&K, Director Agriculture Production and Farmers welfare department Jammu/ Kashmir, Financial Advisor and CEO APD besides other concerned officials both in person and virtually.

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner hosts Special camps under LG's SSS campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Office of the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K is organising a series of awareness camps under the LG's SSS campaign.

The campaign aims to enroll eligible beneficiaries under various government schemes under the SSS campaign of Lieutenant Governor.

In the first instance, the camps will be held in this week in collaboration with J&K Bank at four different migrant camps: Muthi, Nagrota, Jagti and Purkhoo. The camps will be held on February 13, 14, 16 and 17 respectively, from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu has issued necessary instructions to the concerned departments to ensure departmental stalls are installed and sectoral officers remain available in these camps.

The line departments such as Handicrafts & Handloom, Industries and Commerce, Urban Development, Rural Development, Social Welfare and Labour & Employment shall be participating in these camps.

The representatives and resource persons of these departments shall assist the intended beneficiaries, with special focus on self employment schemes.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Dr Arvind Karwani has appealed to all the eligible beneficiaries to participate in these camps and avail the full benefits of the LG's SSS campaign.

Secretary Revenue chairs Public Darbar at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 12

Secretary, Revenue, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, today chaired a mega public darbar here to assess the public grievances and demands besides reviewing development works being executed in the district.

The participants apprised the Administrative Secretary of their development issues, seeking timely intervention for redressal of the same.

Prominent issues and concerns raised during the event included, protection wall for fruit Mandi Aglar Shopian, upgradation of Animal Husbandry, Zainapora, marriage hall and parking space in the town, providing of maternity and children hospital for Kaprin, improvement in condition of roads, water facility in Chitragam and adjacent villages, power supply challenges, augmentation of public health infrastructure, road Connectivity, construction of incomplete roads, dilapi-



dated condition of roads, repair of irrigation canals, upgraded facilities in SDH, availability of veterinary facilities and dispensaries for the local population.

Secretary, responding to issues raised during the programme, assured the public that all their grievances and demands would be addressed in a timely manner.

DDC, Chairperson, Bilqees Jan, SSP, Shopian, Tanushree, Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, Additional

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, SDM Zainapora, DDC, members, besides other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Secretary exhorted upon the officers to ensure strict adherence to guidelines while extending benefits of government services to the common masses. He gave specific instructions to the concerned officers to come up with the expectations of the general public for redressing their genuine issues on priority.

Reaffirming administration's commitment towards addressing every grievance promptly, Secretary said, "it has always been out endeavour to assess and address the public grievances and demands in priority to provide a good governance to the public.

Secretary commended the awareness of locals on the welfare and development issues besides responsiveness of officers in redressing public issues. He reassured that genuine matters would

be addressed through the concerned departments, reiterating the government's steadfast commitment towards development of the district. He also emphasized collaborate efforts of all stakeholders for good of the community and development of the district and the UT as well.

DDC, member, Raja Waheed highlighted some issues of public importance including the inclusion of deserving ration card holders and other issues.

Secretary sought feedback about the dug de-addiction and was apprised that health functionaries are on it's toes and also close vigil is being kept on it to eradicate this menace from the society.

Earlier, ADCC, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone gave brief description of the developmental and other issues.

Besides, Traders Federation, Fruit Growers Association, youth and people in large number participated in the public darbar.

Sensitization/ Training Programme under Mission Vatsalya held at Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12

District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Srinagar in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar today organised Sensitization/ Training programme related to children in conflict with Law and children in need of care and protection at Institute of Hotel Management (IoHM) at Rajbagh Srinagar.

The program was attended by officers of the District Child Protection Unit Srinagar, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, officials of District Child Protection Unit, Members of JJB officials and paralegal volunteers of the DLSA Srinagar.

The aim of the sensitization/training program was to enhance knowledge and skills in child protection.

The program covered various aspects of child protection including the rights of children, forms of child abuse and neglect, reporting mechanisms, and the role of various stakeholders in protecting children. The participants were also sensitized about the importance of early intervention and providing support to children who have been abused or neglected.

Speaking at the event, District Social Welfare Officer/ District Child Protection Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad explained the importance of the programme and gave a



detailed description of the topic and its working mechanism at the government level.

The speakers shared their expertise and professional knowledge with the participants.

Among them, Dr Shahid Ahmad, Member Child Welfare Committee discussed the Role of Child Welfare Committee and Children in need of Care and Protection. Advocate Zulfikar Khan, Member Juvenile Justice Board, explained role and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Board and its working in Nation Building. He further added the importance of incorporation of new skill and exploring participative nature of these Children for incorporating them in the mainstream society.

Child line gave a detailed presentation on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice System and described Adversities of Childhood Experiences and its impact in shaping the future of these Children.

At the end, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi enlightened the working of Legal System and religious perspective towards dealing with Care and Protection of vulnerable children. He further stated that this sensitization/training program is crucial in raising awareness and equipping stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively protect children.

By working together, we can create a safe and nurturing environment for all children in our district, he added.

Workshop to promote Road Safety held at Anantnag

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 12

In an effort to create awareness among employees and dealers on safer driving habits and responsible road behavior, a workshop on Road Safety was today held at Anantnag.

The workshop was organized by Automobile Dealers association Anantnag in collaboration with Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Anantnag.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Anantnag, Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo, who was the chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the workshop.

Speaking at the event, ARTO said that during this National Road Safety Month 2024 emphasis has been laid on the importance and need to follow traffic rules, including traffic lights, speed limits, pedestrian crossing rules and wearing seat-belts while driving a car, amongst others.

He said that these initiatives are aimed at promoting traffic rules and safe driving practices.

Meanwhile, it was given out that Sales and Service Camps will be organized at all dealerships, and the customers visiting the dealership outlets during the Road Safety Month will be encouraged to take safety pledge to Be Road Safety Hero and abide by key areas of road safety.

MVD Doda conducts Road Safety Awareness Campaign



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 12

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) organized a road safety awareness campaign across different locations in the district as part of the ongoing celebration of National Road Safety Month. The celebrations took place in Doda, Gandoh, and Gawari, aiming to educate the public about safe driving practices and the importance of road safety.

In Doda, the event was held near the district police line at Bhagwah Bus stand, with the presence of ARTO Doda. The focus was on highlighting various insurance schemes, with the Zonal Manager of J&K Bank, Doda, providing information about insurance policies for the driver community. On-the-spot forms were filled out and referred to respective bank branches. Additionally, emphasis was placed on responsible driving behavior, particularly regarding over speeding, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, and preventing overloading, as these are significant contributors to accidents in the Chenab Valley. In the far-flung areas of Gandoh and Gawari, Inspector Robin Parihar and MVD officials led the road safety awareness events. The gath-

erings attracted a large number of local inhabitants and drivers. Extensive awareness sessions were conducted, focusing on specific precautions required for driving in hilly areas. The emphasis was on understanding the unique challenges of mountainous terrain and adopting appropriate safety measures to prevent accidents.

National Road Safety Month serves as a crucial period for raising awareness about road safety across the country. It provides an opportunity to educate individuals about safe driving habits, traffic rules, and the importance of following regulations to prevent accidents and save lives.

Driving in hilly areas presents its own set of challenges, including steep slopes, sharp curves, and unpredictable weather conditions. Drivers must exercise caution, maintain control over their vehicles, and avoid distractions while navigating mountainous roads. Adequate vehicle maintenance, adherence to speed limits, and using appropriate gear are essential for safe travel in such terrains. Additionally, staying alert to signs of landslides, road closures, and other hazards is vital to ensuring a smooth and secure journey.

DC reviews working of Rural Development, Revenue Departments

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh today reviewed the working of Rural Development and Revenue Departments, here at a meeting attended by key functionaries including the newly posted officers in the recent Administrative reshuffle by the government.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Pran Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sudershan Kumar, DPO ICDS Paramjeet Singh, ACR Sanjeev Kumar, ACD Manoj Kumar, ACP Musharraf Haff, SDMs, Tehsilidars, and BDOs attended the meeting.

The DC exhorted the Revenue and RDD officers to prepare an action plan for combating illegal mining, drug abuse, bovine smuggling, encroachment of government land and other illegal, anti-social and

anti-peace activities.

The DC urged the officers to put in synchronised efforts to meet the expectations of the common man, while keeping a close eye on the troublemakers.

Harvinder Singh emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability and timely public services delivery. He urged them to submit reports timely and ensure punctuality of staff in the government offices. The DC asked officers to adopt modern technology and e-office for record-keeping/processing and services delivery.

The RDD officers were urged to ensure completion of approved works by the end of this financial year. The DC impressed upon officers to ensure their availability in their jurisdiction and take every possible step to provide seamless services to people at their doorsteps, through the online mode.

PM Modi healing the wounds of Kashmiris: Ravinder Raina

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEB 12

Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, addressed a massive public gathering at Shopian during his tour of Kashmir.

While addressing, Raina said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision for Kashmir. He knows the plight and sufferings of Kashmiris who were looted and befooled by the previous governments, political parties and their leaders for the past 75 years and added that it is the Narendra Modi who is healing the wounds of Kashmiris.

Ravinder Raina further said that J&K is fast moving on the path of development after the abrogation of Article 370. Modi government has allotted immense of funds for the development of world class infrastructure in J&K and added that the union government in the interim budget has proposed a budget of Rs 1.18 lakh crore for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Raina also talked about the construction of



Mughal Road and said it was the Vajpayee government which started construction of Mughal Road connecting Shopian and Poonch and now Modi government has given rupees 2 crores for its development. He further said that a snow gallery will be constructed near Peer Ki Gali and other tourist destinations will be developed which will improve the tourist activities along the Mughal Road.

GDC Vijaypur hosts Documentary Screening on 'Right to Vote'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 12

NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur organized a screening of documentary on 'Right to Vote' under the banner of Voter Awareness Campaign for students and faculty members of the college.

The documentary was a great inspiration for the students as the students came to know about the importance of voting and voting rights. NSS volunteers and other college students participated in



the documentary screening with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The documentary deliberated upon the purpose to inculcate constitutional obligations and to encourage staff and students to cast their vote. The event was organized under able guidance of Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college.

She briefed the students about the fundamental rights and duties of the Indian Constitution. The idea of Voting awareness is to aware the college students understand the importance of voting. She further said that voting is an important civic duty that can significantly impact the future of our country.

Delegation of ex-MLAs calls on Lt Governor; projects various issues of SC community



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

A delegation of former Legislators representing Scheduled Castes community called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The members of the delegation led by Dr DK Manyal, former Minister discussed with the Lt Governor the efforts of the UT Administration for all-round development of the SC community.

They expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Lt Governor

led J&K Administration for ensuring social justice, empowerment of women, youth and socio-economic upliftment of the community.

The delegation apprised the Lt Governor of various welfare issues of Scheduled Caste (SC) community including reservation in promotion; comprehensive transfer policy for Jammu Based SC employees posted in Kashmir, enhancement in reservation quota and reservation of One Lok Sabha seat for SC community in J&K UT. They also put forth the issue of compensation to all owners of the land situ-

ated across the defence wire on India-Pakistan border in the UT; land ownership rights to PoJK refugees, displaced persons and West Pakistan Refugees, and extension of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi benefits.

The Lt Governor assured the former Legislators of appropriate redressal of the issues and demands projected by them during the interaction.

Dr KL Bhagat, Prof GR Bhagat, Sh Neelam Langeh, Sh Kuldeep Kumar - former MLAs and Sh Dharminder Kumar, DDC Member were present.

Lok-Adalat on Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) cases to be held on 17 February, 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12

As per plan of action/ Lok-Adalat calendar for the year, 2024, issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is scheduled to conduct Lok-Adalat for Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) Cases on, 17th

of February, 2024 at District Court Complex Srinagar as well as at Munsiff Court Panthachowk, for amicable settlement of such cases, pending in the courts at various levels.

Therefore, it is notified for information of all concerned Ld. Advocates as well as Persons/ parties who

desire to get their Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) cases to be settled through the said Lok-Adalat may approach DLSA, Srinagar or concerned court, by or before 14th of February, 2024, for referring their aforementioned nature case to the said Lok-Adalat for their amicable settlement.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG interacts with...

Gujjar, Bakarwal and Pahari community will work together for the development of J&K. He said Scheduled Tribes Community will play a major role in developmental journey of UT.

Dinesh Sharma lauded the historic decision of the government to grant scheduled tribe status to Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmin. It has removed the developmental imbalance and strengthened the vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas, he said.

This is a dawn of new prosperity of the Pahari community and the bright future of our young generation, Flail Singh said.

Raja Ajaz said the present government under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Home Minister has created a conducive atmosphere for the Pahari community and the entire border belt.

Anjum, Pradeep Sharma, Iqbal Malik and Murtaza Khan thanked the UT Administration for working as a bridge between the Pahari community and the Government of India and ensure justice for the community.

The Lt Governor assured the delegation that the issues projected by them will be implemented in letter and spirit.

He further asked the community elders to constitute a Samiti of prominent members for seamless coordination with Government Officials on the issues concerning the community.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla; senior political leaders, former PRI members, retired government officials, community elders and youth leaders were present during the interaction. KNO

Rozgar Melas crucial...

will promote collaboration and synergy among various pillars of Mission Karmayogi.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that appointment letters are being handed out to more than 1 lakh recruits and congratulated them and their families on the occasion. He underlined that the campaign to provide job opportunities to the youth in the Government of India is continuing in full swing. Pointing out that the long time spent between the job notification and handing out appointment letters led to an increase in bribery, the Prime Minister stated that the present government has made the entire process transparent while also completing the recruitment process under the stipulated time. He said that it has led to equal opportunities for every youth in showcasing their capabilities. "Today, every youth believes that they can cement their job position with hard work and skills", PM Modi said, highlighting that the government strives to make the youth a partner in the development of the nation. He informed that the present government in the last 10 years has handed out jobs to the youth 1.5 times more than the previous governments. The Prime Minister also touched upon laying the foundation stone of Phase I of the Integrated Complex 'Karmayogi Bhavan' in New Delhi and said that it will strengthen the government's initiative towards capacity building.

Talking about the opening of new sectors and creation of opportunities for employment and self-employment for the youth due to the efforts of the government, the Prime Minister mentioned the Budget announcement about 1 crore rooftop solar plants which will reduce the power bill of the families and they will be able to earn money by supplying power to the grid. This scheme will create lakhs of new jobs also, he said.

Mentioning that India is the third largest startup ecosystem in the world with about 1.25 lakh startups, PM Modi expressed happiness that many of these startups are from tier 2 or tier 3 cities. As these startups are creating new job opportunities, the latest budget announced the continuation of the tax rebate for the startups. The Prime Minister also mentioned the 1 lakh crore fund that has been announced in the Budget for promoting research and innovation.

Informing that recruitment in Railway is also taking place today through the Rozgar Mela, the Prime Minister highlighted that Railway is the first choice of the common people when it comes to travelling. Shri Modi drew attention to the fact that Railway in India is undergoing a massive transformation and the sector will witness a complete makeover in the next decade. He recalled that not much attention was paid to the Railway before 2014 and mentioned the electrification and doubling of rail lines as well as flagging off new trains and increasing facilities for the passengers. But after 2014, the Prime Minister informed that a campaign to reinvent the entire train travel experience was initiated with a focus on modernization and upgradation of railways. He informed that 40,000 modern bogies like Vande Bharat Express will be prepared and added to normal trains under this year's Budget, thereby increasing convenience and comfort for passengers.

Highlighting the far-reaching impact of connectivity, the Prime Minister mentioned new markets, expansion of tourism, new businesses and the creation of lakhs of jobs due to improved connectivity. "Investment in infrastructure is being ramped up to accelerate development", the Prime Minister said as 11 lakh crore rupees have been marked for investment in infrastructure in the recent Budget. New rail, road, airports, and waterways projects will create new job opportunities, he said.

Noting that many of the new appointments are in paramilitary forces, the Prime Minister dwelled on the reforms in the selection process for paramilitary forces and informed that from this January examination will be conducted in 13 Indian languages apart from Hindi and English. This will give everyone equal opportunity to lakhs of candidates. He also informed about the increase in the quota for border and extremism-affected districts.

The Prime Minister highlighted the role of government personnel in the journey of Viksit Bharat. "More than 1 lakh Karmayogis that are joining today, will give this journey a new energy and speed", said the Prime Minister. He asked them to devote every day to nation-building. He told them about Karmayogi Bharat Portal which has more than 800 courses and 30 lakh users and asked them to take full benefit of that.

Rozgar Mela was held at 47 locations across the coun-

try. The recruitments are taking place across Central Government Departments and State Governments/UTs supporting this initiative. The recruits will be joining the Government in various Ministries/Departments viz. Department of Revenue, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Higher Education, Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Defence, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Railways in various positions.

Rozgar Mela is a step towards the fulfilment of the commitment of the Prime Minister to accord the highest priority to employment generation in the country. Rozgar Mela is expected to leverage further employment generation and provide gainful opportunities to the Youth for their empowerment and direct participation in National Development.

The newly inducted appointees will also get an opportunity to train themselves through Karmayogi Prarambh, an online module on iGOT Karmayogi portal where more than 880 e-learning courses have been made available for 'anywhere any device' learning format.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, in his welcome address, hailed manifold rise in government recruitment under the Modi Govt and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a record of more than one lakh central government jobs to the youth of the country in one go.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the youth will get the jobs in various central department departments in all the states and Union Territories.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the youth from SC/ST/OBCs got more than double jobs in less than 10 years of Modi Government than the entire 10 years of the previous government. Dishing out the figures, the Minister said, while 2,56,504 youth from backward sections got employment during the UPA through Staff Selection Commission, the number is more than double in the Modi Government with 5,11,775 people getting jobs. Similarly, through the Railway Recruitment Board, 4,92,605 youth got jobs under the Modi Government in comparison to 4,11,624 during the ten years prior to 2014.

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out that the backlog of vacancies for SC/ST/OBCs saw a jump of more than 150 percent under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as 2,93,475 vacancies got filled in comparison to 1,008,34 during the entire 10 years of the previous government.

Referring to another important priority of the Modi Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said, over 18 percent women got jobs in less than 10 years compared to about 7 to 8 percent during the ten years prior to 2014. He also underlined that in some of the Rozgar Melas, 20 to 22 percent women candidates got job letters.

Dr Jitendra Singh lauded Prime Minister for giving more than 10,000 jobs to teachers in the Eklayva Model Residential Schools, which impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors. The Minister said, this is the priority of the Modi Government to uplift the SC/ST/OBC students by imparting them quality education.

Dr Jitendra Singh also lauded the Prime Minister for his guidance and directions to end the stagnation in promotions and the Minister pointed out that mass promotions were given in recent years in the bulk of 2,000, 4,000 and over 9,000 to the employees.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the inauguration of "Karmayogi Bhawan" today by the Prime Minister will go a long way in training through Mission Karmayogi Prarambh for any post, any department, for the job getters.

PM likely to visit...

40 kilometres of track is almost ready and security inspection has been completed.

Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir could boost BJP's prospectus in the Union Territory ahead of Lok Sabha elections as the party this time is eyeing three seats instead of two that it won for two consecutive terms in 2014 and 2019. Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma won Udhampur and Jammu seats in last two Lok Sabha polls.

However, this time, the BJP is eyeing third seat Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri which has large number of Pahari votes to whom the Government accorded ST status in the just concluded Parliament session. KNO

BJP will win 370...

In 10 years, PM Modi chalked out a plan to take the country to a new height, and after 10 years of his rule, people are confident that India will be number one in the world in 2047, the senior BJP leader said.

He said Prime Minister Modi has the capability to chalk out a plan and implement it with hard work.

As a result, the Indian economy has gone up from the 11th position to become the 5th largest in the world, he said.

"There is no doubt that in the third term of the Modi government, we will become the third largest economy," Shah said.

The Union minister also said that on January 22 this year, the idol of Lord Ram was consecrated at the Ayodhya temple in the presence of PM Modi.

"For around 550 years, every person in the country was waiting for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. On January 22, we witnessed this, and today we have a beautiful temple of Ram Lalla that surprises the world," he added.

In his address, Shah also paid tribute to Arya Samaj founder Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati on his birth anniversary.

A grand event to mark the occasion has been organised at the social reformer's birthplace at Tankara in Gujarat's Morbi district. (AGENCIES)

Govt orders transfer...

PTWS Kashmir, relieving Showkat Ahmad Dar, Commandant IR-4th Bn. of the additional charge of the said

DC Bandipora reviews status of Pavilion & Indoor Hall Works at S K Stadium



JINNEWSERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Sha-keel Ul Rehman today convened a meeting to review the status of sports infrastructure development, indoor hall and pavilion construction initiative at S.K Stadium Bandipora.

Addressing the meeting, DC underscored the importance of investing in sports infrastructure development to promote physical activity, talent development and community engagement.

He emphasized that the construction of an indoor hall and pavilion in S.K Stadium besides providing a venue for sporting events will also serve as a catalyst for involving more youth towards sports.

The meeting discussed existing sports facilities and identification of areas

requiring improvement or expansion to meet the growing demand for sporting activities.

Discussion on the design of the proposed indoor hall, pavilion and considerations for seating capacity besides amenities and accessibility features were also held during the meeting.

The DC highlighted the need for collaboration between government agencies, and the sports associations and sports enthusiasts to ensure the success of sports infrastructure projects and asked the concerned agencies to start the work on proposed infrastructures without any further delay.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer J&K Sports Council, sports administrators, R&B Engineers, and representatives of various sports associations.

BJP Jammu Urban body holds LS polls preparation meeting

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Bhartiya Janta Party Urban District Jammu unit led by its District Coordinator Narottam Sharma organized a program in a local community hall in old city Jammu.

Almost all the former councillors of the BJP and chief activists of all wards of Jammu city participated in the program. The program was aimed to ensure the victory of the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. All the party members assured the BJP leadership that with full dedication and honesty, they would ensure victory of the party in all 5 parliamentary seats of the J & K and once again BJP would form government in the

country, reinstating Shri Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister.

All the speakers expressed their views and assured their fullest support to the party leadership.

In the program, senior BJP leader Sat Sharma, State Coordinator of Urban Body Pawan Singh along with his other colleagues including Narendra Singh, Dinesh Gupta and other eminent councillors including Anil Masoom, Sumit Raina, Sucha Singh, Nidhi, kulbeer chadak, and other respected activists including Asha, Saroj Gupta, Rajesh Nischal, Amit Khanna, Rajinder Sikka and Hari Om participated in the program. The program concluded with slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram'.

post. Pardeep Kumar, Dy.CO IR-2nd Battalion, is transferred and posted as Addl. SP SIA, against an available vacancy.

Sunil Kumar Kesar, is posted as SP PC Doda, against an available vacancy. Prithpal Singh, is posted as Dy.CO IR-7 Battalion, against available vacancy.

Zafar Iqbal Nawaz, is posted as Addl. SP Handwara, against an available vacancy. Bashir Ahmad, is posted as Dy.CO IR-21" Batalion, against an available vacancy.

Iftikhar Ahmed, is posted as Addl. SP Reasi, vice Master Peerzada Aijaz Ahmad, is posted as Dy.CO IR-4th Batation, against an available vacancy. Aumer Iqbal, is posted as Dy.CO IR-22nd Battalion, against an available vacancy. Shivali Kotwal, is posted as DyCO IR-14th Battalion, against an available vacancy.

Wajahat Hussain, is posted as DyCO IR-5 Battalion, against an available vacancy. Mohd. Shafiq, is posted as DyCO IR-2nd Battalion, against an available vacancy. Rashid Younis, is posted as Adl. SP Awantipora, against an available vacancy. KNO

3 siblings charred...

of Saniya, Bisma and Saika - the three sisters who tragically lost their lives in the Ramban fire incident. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow! I earnestly request the Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary Sahab for release of swift and comprehensive compensation to support the bereaved family during this difficult time. May Almighty Allah bless the young souls with the highest place in Jannah and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss."

Similarly Congress J&K Chief, Vikar Rasool Wani posted on X, "I respectfully express my deepest sympathies to the family and the entire village of Tajnihaal, Danmasta, Banihal. It is truly regrettable and profoundly distressing that 3 young daughters of Abdul Latif Lone tragically lost their lives in a devastating house fire incident. May the divine grant the family

One day Training Programme for Micro observers held at Bandipora



JINNEWSERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 12

In view of the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024, Election Department Bandipora in collaboration with Department of Education today conducted a day-long training programme for micro observers to be designated for various election related activities.

The training programme was presided over by Chief Education officer Bandipora who is also Nodal Officer trainings and manpower management, Mohammad Amin Beigh and was attended by Deputy CEO G.M Pujoo and micro observers besides other concerned. The training was imparted by Dis-

trict Level Master trainer Mohammad Iqbal Samoon and programme was coordinated by coordinator Trainings and manpower management Mir Irfan Maqbool.

In his address, CEO Bandipora deliberated upon various aspects of the electoral system and the importance of proper training for poll staff.

During the programme, the Deputy Chief Education Officer highlighted various duties and responsibilities of micro observers.

During the programme, District Level Master Trainer imparted training related to EVM and other election related activities besides highlighted precautions to be observed by poll staff.

GDC Kathua organizes lecture on Journey of literature from vedic period to modern age'



JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

In continuation to organising a series of inter-disciplinary lectures to enhance the knowledge of the students, today department of Education organised third lecture on the theme - Journey of literature from vedic period to modern age. The programme started with formal welcome address by Head Department of Education and Coordinator IGNOU Dr Ram Singh. The lecture was delivered by resource person Dr Yash-paul Sharma Head Department of Urdu Gdc Kathua. In his lecture he threw light

on the various development aspects of literature from vedic age to modern period. He impressed upon the student to develop the habits of reading literature. He further said that literature is the mirror of society and it plays a holistic role in the personality development of the students. The programme ended with formal vote of thanks by Prof Anil Verma Assiatant prof department of Education. About 120 students attended the programme. The lecture was organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervision of Head Department of Education Gdc Kathua.

the strength to endure this irreplaceable loss, whilst I also urge the authorities to extend essential aid to the grieving family". KNO

Jammu police produces...

questioning they confessed that they had crossed LoC from Poonch and went to Pakistan about 10/11 years ago, where from they got training of arms / ammunition in order to create the militancy activities and remain affiliated with commanders of HM/LeT outfits, police said.

On the directions of commanders of banned outfits they returned to Jammu and Kashmir via Nepal after getting training from Pakistan to create militancy in the state.

"They also disclosed that the recovered money was supposed to be distributed among the youth of the Doda and Kishtwar to revive the militancy activities in the area. During the course of investigation offences u/s 13,17, 20, UA(P) Act and I20-B/RPC have been substantiated against the accused, who are presently bailed out by the orders of Court of law and accordingly today on 12.02.2024, chargesheet of the instant case has been produced against both the accused persons in the Court of 3rd Addition Session Judge Jammu (NIA) for favour of judicial determination," police said. KNO

J&K braces up...

Moreover, the MeT department in its advisory, said that the in view of the significant snow accumulation and sub freezing temperature over many hilly areas, travellers are advised to follow administration and traffic police advisory. KNO

Santosh D Vaidya...

assigned the charge of crucial Home department after RK Goyal proceeded on central deputation. KNO

Union Secretary, Chief Secretary co-chair Executive Committee level meeting to review preparations for Khelo India Winter Games 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Union Secretary, Sports, Sujata Chaturvedi and Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today co-chaired the Executive Committee level meeting held to review preparations for the forthcoming Khelo India Winter Games 2024 scheduled to be held from 21st February to 25th February at Gulmarg.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Culture, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commission Secretary Tourism, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Secretary Public Works department, Secretary Health and Medical Education, IG Traffic J&K, Director Fire and Emergency Services, Director Information, J&K, Director Tourism Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Director Youth Services and Sports, MD KPDCCL, Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association, National Sports Federations, Hoteliers Association J&K, Winter Sports Association J&K and other concerned officers.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Union Secretary empha-



sized on the importance of meticulous planning and seamless coordination in executing various facets of the Khelo India Winter Games.

The meeting deliberated on several key aspects of the games like venue preparation, infrastructure development, participant registration, promotional activities, media planning and other related issues concerning smooth execution of games.

She emphasized upon the officers to focus on enhancing the overall experience for athletes and spectators by exploring innovative strategies to elevate the standard of the games and maximize their impact on the sporting landscape.

The Union Secretary remarked that all the required arrangements need to be put in place beforehand for successful conduct of this edition of Khelo India Winter Games. She stressed upon the organisers to provide full

support to volunteers as they are the main arm for smooth conduct of games. She also called upon the organisers to categorise the dining places and other areas so that the athletes are facilitated and provided required logical support.

The Union Secretary complimented the departments and organisers for smooth synergy and coordination, adding that it will be milestone in the journey towards hosting a spectacular edition of the games.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chief Secretary remarked that Gulmarg is emerging as Winter Sports Capital of India and we need to follow all the technical protocols related to these games so as to professionalise them to its core. He highlighted that Khelo India Winter Games is a testament to the fact that J&K has established such kind of facilities by which it can organise a grand event like this.

The Chief Secretary called upon all the stakeholder departments and agencies that all the required arrangements need to be in place well in advance besides any area of concern should be addressed beforehand. He further called upon the essential service departments to keep backup plan available in order to meet any kind of exigency due to snowfall.

He emphasised that the organiser Ski patrol teams as well as other disaster response teams should be put in place at designated places to deal with any kind of eventuality during the games.

Dulloo further asked the Director Information to launch a dedicated campaign for publicity of this grand event and amplify the use of social media for the same. He expressed confidence to deliver a world-class sporting spectacle.

During the meeting, Secretary Youth Servic-

es and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, gave a detailed presentation on preparations of this event. He informed the meeting that all the necessary arrangements have been made with ample focus on accommodation, transportation, catering and other essential facilities for the athletes.

It was also given out in the meeting that help desks have been established at Airports, Jammu Railway Station, TRCs to facilitate visitors as well as athletes coming for this grand event.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed, informed the meeting that a good number of ambulances has been made available for the games, adding that facilities at PHC Gulmarg have been augmented with deployment of enough number of specialist doctors. He also informed the meeting that Critical care ambulances as well as chopper services will be made available to meet any kind of exigency besides enough medicines and other required medical instruments have been stocked up at the venue.

During the meeting, representatives of SAI, Indian Olympic Association and other agencies gave their valuable inputs for the smooth conduct of games.

Pr Secy Culture assesses functioning of Archives, Archaeology and Museums Deptt

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, chaired a meeting to review the operations of the Archives, Archaeology, and Museums (AAM) Department in Jammu.

Director AAM, J&K, Raj Kumar Katoch; Director Finance in Culture Department, S. Satnam Singh; Special Secretary Culture, Trishala Kumari; Assistant Director, AAM Jammu, Dr. Sangeeta Sharma; Assistant Director AAM Kashmir, Mush-taq Ahmad Beigh and other concerned attended the meeting in person and via online mode.

During the meeting, Director AAM, RK Katoch delivered a comprehensive presentation, outlining the department's activities and various operational facets, including archives repository, archival records, reference libraries, and museums. A significant focus of the meeting was dedicated to the status of protected monuments across Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing their numbers and the ongoing conservation efforts.

Principal Secretary highlighted that out of the 495 heritage monuments listed by the Government



of India, 56 have been undertaken for preservation by the Archaeological Survey of India through Central Act notification.

Additionally, 54 monuments have been identified under JK Act notification, with a total of 110 monuments currently undergoing preservation work.

Specialized schemes aimed at the conservation and preservation of monumental structures were discussed, with specific attention to the Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation, and Maintenance and Heritage Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Secretary Gupta emphasized the importance of public awareness regarding the rich heritage and cultural

legacy of Jammu and Kashmir. He directed officers to disseminate information about JK heritage monuments to the public to foster greater appreciation and understanding.

Furthermore, it was noted that Additional District Development Commissioners (ADDCs) in all districts have been appointed as nodal officers, tasked with expediting restoration efforts within their respective jurisdictions.

Also, Suresh Kumar conducted an on-site inspection of various sections of the AAM office at Old Secretariat Mubarak Mandi, including the Archives Reference Section, Historic Documents Section, and State Archives Repository Jammu.

Mumtaz Ahmad Pir assumes charge as ACD Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 12

Mumtaz Ahmad Pir today officially assumed the charge as Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora.

The ACD received a vibrant welcome from the officers and officials of the Rural Development Department.

While taking the responsibilities of ACD, Pir expressed his commitment for the time bound developmental process and implementation of efficient governance in the rural development department in district Bandipora. While chairing the introductory meeting, he urged the staff to operate with a legacy of dedication and transparency for the greatest benefit of the greatest number.

He stressed on punctuality transparency, timely and effective public service delivery in offices of the rural development department.

Pir has earlier served as Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Tehsildar and Block Development Officer.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Executive Engineer, Elect. Division-I, JPDCCL Parade Jammu has informed that the power supply near Super Market (Malhotra Mohalla) will remain affected on February 13, 15, 17 and 19 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Prem Nagar (Near Church) will remain affected on February 13 and 15 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, O&M

DDC Kupwara reviews progress of ongoing works under JJM



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 12

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudhan Monday convened a meeting to review the progress of ongoing works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district. On the occasion, the DDC stressed upon all the concerned officers to gear up the pace of work and ensure completion of all ongoing works within the stipulated time frame. She emphasized upon the officers to maintain quality standards of the works being executed on ground so that the assets created are durable and reliable. During the meeting, vari-

ous land and forest issues were raised before the chair and the DDC directed the concerned officers to resolve them instantly. She directed the JD Planning to constitute a Technical Team for inspection of dug wells constructed in the district. Earlier, it was informed in the meeting that out of 117 allotted works, 33 works pertaining to PHE Division Handwara have been completed so far. 30 works out of 100 allotted works stands completed in PHE Division Kupwara.

JD Planning, SE Jal Shakti, DIO, XENS, AEEs and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

GMS Ghou Manhasan organises exposure visit to food Craft Institute Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

To provide exposure to basic vocational skills of Hospitality and Protocol under NEP-2020, Government Middle School Ghou Manhasan organized a field visit for students of upper primary classes to Food Craft Institute Nagrota Jammu.

Principal GHSS Ghou Manhasan (Cluster Head), Renuka Nagpal, flagged off the trip in presence of staff members. The faculty members of FCI Jammu aware students about various vocational and

skill based courses run by the institute and provide career counselling regarding Hospitality and Protocol. The students toured the institute and visited various departments of the institute.

The trip was organized under the Vocational Education intervention of the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha JK UT. The Incharge Middle school Ghou Manhasan on behalf of school Education Department JK UT thanks Principal of institute, Jyoti Bhati for making the visit successful.

Safety Month 2024: Awareness camps conducted alongside Kishtwar - Paddar Road

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 12

In a proactive endeavor to enhance road safety awareness, the Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar, under the leadership of ARTO Kishtwar, Mohd Saleem Manhas, conducted impactful awareness camps along the Kishtwar-Nagseni-Paddar road axis.

The initiative specifically targeted interior areas to ensure comprehensive coverage. The day's events commenced with an enlightening awareness camp at the Padyarna Bus Stand at Nagseni, followed by similar initiatives at Gulabgarh Bus Stand Paddar. The focus extended to critical routes, including the Gulabgarh Pallai link road, Gulabgarh Kundail link road, and Tatapani link roads. Observably, the awareness campaign influenced positive behavior among citizens



and commuters, as many opted for pedestrian travel over boarding overloaded vehicles, showcasing the tangible impact of the initiative.

During the course of the day, enforcement agencies, in collaboration with the Motor Vehicle Department, took assertive action by challaning 11 vehicles and seizing 7 vehicles for non-compliance

with necessary documents and safety equipment. The Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar expresses gratitude to all stakeholders and the community for their active participation, contributing to the success of the Road Safety Month 2024 celebration. This collaborative effort emphasizes the shared responsibility of ensuring road safety for all.

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of ICDS

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting, here to review the implementation of the ICDS schemes and programmes including nutritional support system, health services, immunization, and non formal pre-school education to children in the age group 0 to 6-years.

District Programme Officer (DPO) ICDS Kulgam through a PowerPoint presentation apprised the chair that there are 1181 operational Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the district. He informed that in order to meet the staff deficiencies 45 Workers and 148 Anganwadi helpers will be engaged on already advertised posts.

The meeting discussed



in detail the ICDS operations, availability of accommodations and facilities at all Aganwadi centers.

The DC asked the CDPOs and supervisors to visit their Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) on regular intervals to assess working of these centres and to enhance the effectiveness of services to the targeted children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women.

Giving the expenditure

details, DPO informed that under SNP an expenditure of Rs. 3.61 crore out of 5.08 crore was made, besides 19 lac out of 32.68 lac have been expended on medicinal kits.

The DC instructed the concerned officers to ensure full expenditure of funds under SNP is made within a few days.

The meeting was attended by DPO, Abdul Rasheed; JD Planning, Zahid Sajjad; CDPOs, BDOs and other officers.

DC Ganderbal chairs Coordination Meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Monday presided over a crucial coordination meeting involving the Revenue and Police departments at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The meeting commenced with a comprehensive discussion on several pressing issues notably illegal construction, illicit mining, encroachments, and drug de-addiction activities, among other unlawful matters.

In a concerted effort to combat illegal mining and construction activities within the district, Tehsildars received firm



directives to intensify field inspections, maintain close collaboration with field operatives, and rigorously enforce legal measures against individuals implicated in such illicit activities.

Addressing concerns about drug abuse, SSP Ganderbal reiterated the police department's commitment to hosting regular awareness programs

and collaborative initiatives with allied departments. Moreover, stringent measures are being implemented against drug peddlers to stem the tide of substance abuse, he added.

SSP Ganderbal affirmed unwavering support from the police department in the ongoing battle against illegal mining and construction ventures in the

district. In line with the collaborative spirit, DC solicited necessary police assistance during encroachment drives to ensure effective enforcement of regulations.

The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; ADC, Gulzar Ahmad; ASP, ACR, Tehsildars and other pertinent officials.

EDITORIAL

Plan effective waste management!

Parliamentary panel has recently revealed that only three out of 285 total blocks in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have Plastic Waste Management Units. This is although great thrust has been laid on this aspect in the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II operational guidelines. Plastic waste has become an insidious pandemic plaguing our planet, suffocating ecosystems, contaminating waterways, and endangering wildlife. The urgency to tackle this crisis cannot be overstated. It demands a concerted effort from the local government, industries, communities, and individuals alike. We must reevaluate our approach to plastic waste management and adopt comprehensive strategies to mitigate its adverse effects. The Standing Committee on Water Resources, in its 21st report tabled in the recently concluded parliament session, has mentioned that one of the objectives of Phase-II of SBM(G) is to make villages 'visually clean' by ensuring minimal littering, minimal stagnation of water and no accumulation of plastic waste in the form of a dump. To fulfill this objective, Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been assigned the task of arrangement for door-to-door collection of plastic waste along with other waste, segregation and storage of plastic waste at the common village shed constructed/available in the village, selling recyclable plastic waste to vendors and sending remaining plastic waste to the block level Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs), the panel has stated. It is important to state that the proliferation of single-use plastics epitomizes the unsustainable nature of our consumption patterns. From disposable bags to packaging materials, these items are designed for convenience but endure for centuries, polluting landfills and oceans. Therefore, a fundamental shift towards a circular economy is imperative, wherein plastics are reused, recycled, or repurposed rather than discarded after a single use. This necessitates innovative product design, investment in recycling infrastructure, and consumer education to foster a culture of responsible consumption. The local administration plays a pivotal role in implementing regulatory frameworks to incentivize sustainable practices and hold industries accountable for their environmental footprint. Legislation restricting the production and use of non-recyclable plastics, coupled with extended producer responsibility schemes, can incentivize the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives and drive innovation in waste management technologies. Moreover, international cooperation is crucial to address the transboundary nature of plastic pollution and harmonize regulatory standards to prevent the displacement of waste to less regulated regions. Addressing the plastic pandemic requires a multifaceted approach that transcends individual actions and localized solutions. It demands a paradigm shift in our relationship with plastic, from viewing it as a disposable commodity to recognizing its intrinsic value and environmental impact. Only through concerted efforts at the global, national, and local levels can we hope to stem the tide of plastic pollution and safeguard the health of our planet for future generations. The Union Territory of Ladakh has made substantial progress in creating this facility in terms of creating PWMUs to realize the objective of visually clean villages. The management of plastic waste is not merely an environmental issue but a moral imperative and an existential challenge that demands immediate action. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and collective responsibility, we can forge a path toward a more sustainable future where plastic waste is no longer a blight on our planet but a symbol of our resilience and commitment to stewardship.

A 14th century warning for fans of 21st century demagogues

MAX HASTINGS

A history student told me recently that he loves researching the 20th Century but can't see the point of the Middle Ages. I responded that it can be a big help to understanding our own times - very troubled times - to view them in the context even of the remote past.

In 1978, the great American historian Barbara Tuchman published a book entitled *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century*. She portrayed the experience of France and England - the US, of course, had not yet been invented - through an era that makes our own, at least in Western Europe and most of North America, seem a haven of peace, prosperity and justice.

A contemporary wrote that those times were almost overwhelmed by many "strange and great perils and adversities." Drastic climate events frightened humans. The Baltic froze in two winters, and there were repeated seasons of extreme cold, storms and rain. Icelanders could no longer grow corn. In 1315, crops failed in many regions, precipitating famine.

The Catholic Church, sole provider of such meager welfare relief as then existed, was riven. Rival pontiffs presided in Rome and Avignon, though both were conspicuously corrupt: Clerical forgiveness for almost every sin

was available for purchase.

At mid-century, the so-called Black Death, a pestilence carried by rat-borne fleas, killed an estimated one-third of population between Iceland and India. Villages were abandoned, tillage relapsed to wilderness, towns and cities became drastically reduced.

Warfare was endemic, most conspicuously the so-called Hundred Years' War between the "Goddams" of England, as they were known in France, and the king ruling precariously in Paris. This was waged only intermittently, being interrupted by truces. But once the rival monarchs had raised more money to muster new armies, they locked in battle once more.

Beneath the overarching national contest, there was regional strife between local lords, which wrought even more widespread misery among peasants and merchants. The French moralist Jacques de Vitry wrote: "Ye nobles are like ravaging wolves. Therefore shall ye howl in hell...who despoil your subjects and live on the blood and sweat of the poor."

Even when neighboring nobles resolved differences, their soldiers persisted in brigandage, because this was their only skill. Those same men who were deemed the heroes of England's great victories at Crecy, Poitiers and, later, Agincourt "beat and maim and slay the people

for to have their wives and goods...[They] sometimes come before the [law courts] in such guise with great force whereby the justices be afraid and not hardy to do the law."

Today's US and Europe are inconceivably healthier, more prosperous, stabler and even safer than they were eight centuries ago. But swatches of the globe closely recall the condition described by Tuchman. Hundreds of millions of people subsist and suffer in places where the gun is king, where the strong prey upon the weak.

When I travelled the world as a foreign correspondent, among the most vivid sensations I often experienced was that of encountering a teenager armed with a Kalashnikov. I always knew that such a figure could kill me without remorse or retribution.

To those of us fortunate enough to live today in societies where civilians are denied guns - where law still prevails - such a threat sounds remote. But if one scratches a pitiful living under the Taliban in Afghanistan, across vast regions of Africa, in Central America and parts of Brazil, mortal peril is a constant even among the middle class, and even in the internet age and at the season of Oscar presentations.

A constant between such societies and 14th Century Europe is their dominance

by men of violence. Its pursuit is the most profitable activity accessible to the younger males. Imagine growing up today in Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan, tribal areas of Pakistan and much of central Asia.

The only non-violent career options are those of subsistence farming and small trading. Far more empowering is to become, instead, a warrior. Millions choose a career in which their only responsibility is to kill or be killed - much like many of the men of 14th Century Europe. Their lords, the knights of Europe, prided themselves on courtly conduct to their own kind, but their treatment of the weak and vulnerable exposed them as barbarians. Almost all real-life Sir Lancelots were merciless oppressors.

Some served under the banners of kings. Many more, however, fought for some local lord or mercenary commander. The Free Companies were forerunners of today's PMCs - private military companies, mercenary organizations, such as operate in every 21st Century war zone. Vladimir Putin has just launched a new one called the Africa Corps.

There are many reflections above which are worth our heeding in that distant mirror, as Tuchman called it. Gunpowder then generated a revolution in warfare, as profound in its time as that being imposed today by electronics and remote

weapons.

The diaries, letters and records of the 14th Century lay bare the horrors created by a breakdown of law and order. Weak administrations, at both national and local levels, caused boundless misery. Those of us who inhabit ordered societies should realize how ghastly is the plight of millions who live beyond the shield of justice. Nigeria, for instance, is one of the most important and densely populated countries in Africa, but many of its inhabitants are doomed to lifelong victimhood.

Many peoples of medieval Europe experienced the decline or outright collapse of respect for their institutions - the monarchy, the Church, the law. Tuchman wrote in 1978 that many historians avoided study of the 14th century, "because it could not be made to fit into a pattern of human progress": The autocratic order was failing.

Today we see the West in deep trouble, especially in its confrontation with its Russian and Chinese foes, because the democratic order struggles to meet the needs of voters in many of the societies in which it holds nominal sway.

It seems increasingly apparent that the most conspicuous beneficiaries of the retreat from US hegemony, notably in the Middle East, will not be any nation-state but instead non-state actors such as Hamas and Hezbol-

lah. Italians of the 14th Century would readily recognize such people, and their consequences, wielding armed might without bearing responsibility for administering functioning societies.

Perhaps the foremost message of the 14th Century experience is that we must continue to cherish faith in worthy leaders, principles, values, the concept of truth. If we dismiss these things, we become prey to follies, failures, charlatans, and - ultimately - to anarchy.

The likes of Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, Narendra Modi and Victor Orban display a contempt for the integrity of their own nations' justice systems that seems terrifying. The universe dominated by religious fantasy and superstition inhabited by the peoples of the 1300s seemed remarkably remote to us a few decades ago. Yet today we see millions of deluded Americans embrace the ravings of QAnon, which are at least as damaging as those of mediaeval soothsayers.

Law and order are fundamental. If these are overthrown, as they were in the Western Europe starkly depicted by Tuchman, and as they are today forfeit across an alarming proportion of the globe, then human happiness is forfeit, for all save tyrants and the perpetrators of violence.

BLOOMBERG OPINION

Messi confronts China in his own way

BHOPINDER SINGH

Last year, three Indian Wushu players i.e., Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu, were given stapled visas to travel to China, for the World University Games. All three were proud Indian Arunachalis, and the entire Indian squad pulled out of the competition in protest of the Chinese sleight. It was reminiscent of the 2016 incident when the Manager of the Indian Badminton team, Bamang Tago, was denied a visa to travel to China - he too was an Arunachali! Much earlier in 2011, a 45-team Indian Karate team travelling to China were issued standard visas, except five members who were given stapled visas, again all Arunachalis. Chinese are past masters in psychological warfare and no domain or opportunity is too irrelevant for them to resist partaking a 'ping'. It is culturally part and parcel of their patented 'three warfare' approach where they relentlessly invoke psychological, legal, and public opinion warfare. The recurring bone of contention is the Indian State Arunachal Pradesh which expansionist China falsely claims as so-called 'South Tibet',

and therefore shadow boxing on the same.

It's the same pressure tactic that it applies with Taiwan and forces its athletes to compete under an unfamiliar name called 'Chinese Taipei', in Olympics and other events. Taiwanese athletes also compete under an alien flag (1981 agreement with the International Olympics Committee led a newly designed white flag with a flower outline around a sun and the Olympic rings in the middle) with an unheard flag-raising song. The Chinese are constantly looking to score a symbolic and psychological 'hit'. Therefore, with such fixation with political posturing and insinuations in everything that it does and imagines, it also leads to hallucinations or perceived indignities whenever it is on the receiving end, deliberately or inadvertently.

The latest issue of a 'non-starter' by the global football superstar, Lionel Messi, whilst in Hong Kong owing to an ostensible 'swollen and painful injury' got doubly compounded by the football icon subsequently playing in Japan, within three days thereafter. The angst against Messi started early with fans booing the 'no-show' on field (which extended to even avoiding

interacting with fans or receiving the trophy). The Chinese were not amused and were seen openly questioning the intent of the player and called out what they thought was a 'deliberate and calculated snub'. All hell broke loose when just after a couple of days Messi took to the ground in Japan. As it is, China has major beef with Japan. An indignant Global Times echoed Chinese frustrations in its editorial, "The match in Hong Kong became the only one in Messi's six pre-season friendly matches on this trip where he was absent. The situation ... has magnified these doubts and suspicions on the integrity of Inter Miami and Messi himself." The Chinese finally got a flavour of a dish that they so routinely serve, even if Messi who is an Argentine (which little or no sovereign stakes for or against China) is not known to make political points, unlike some other stars.

This incident harks back to 2019 when the then Arsenal football club legend Mesut Ozil openly condemned China's treatment of the country's Uighur minority - the thin-skinned Chinese reacted furiously, and Arsenal club had humiliatedly buckled under pressure, offering meek clarification, "The content

published is Ozil's personal opinion. As a football club, Arsenal has always adhered to the principle of not involving itself in politics". The Chinese had flexed muscle and extracted their revenge. For the Chinese, football is particularly important given its global popularity and Xi Jinping's penchant in the same reflecting with its declared aspiration to be a 'soccer powerhouse' with the stated intent of winning the Football World Cup in 2050!

Perhaps the only time that Messi did come under political suspicion (indirectly again) was with his purported move to Saudi Arabia earlier, a move rife with suspicions of Saudis' sportswashing' their murky credentials, by luring sportsmen with money. But Messi didn't move, finally. Despite a long career he has remained steadfastly apolitical and steered clear of political controversies. With a permanent house in Barcelona, Messi took no position on the contentious Catalan-independence issue, given its resonance in Barcelona region. However, the eight-time Ballon'd'Or winner has somehow never played against England at international level, with whom the Argentinian emotions date back to the 1982 Falkland War

and Diego Maradona's infamous 'Hand of God' moment in 1986. In fact, Messi now plays for Inter Miami owned by the English star David Beckham, who had his own 'moment' against rival Argentines when he kicked their captain Diego Simeone in the crucial FIFA World Cup match of 1998.

So, it is extremely unlikely that Messi would be making a political point this late in his career, and especially given the lucrative contracts he has with Chinese conglomerates. If anything, Messi has been in the news for milking his stardom by signing brand endorsements without bothering too much about the brand product or service itself. Incidentally, he had signed up with the now-in-news Byju's as their global ambassador, only to be put on hold when the company started going belly-up.

Nonetheless, the Chinese are feeling insulted and aggrieved, Messi's likely innocence and apology notwithstanding. But it is a providential taste of China's own medicine.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

A journey through loss and healing

RAVI VALLURI

The doctor was an early riser. Upon waking he hit the gym. He remained fit and in proper shape by maintaining this regimen. The medico was a noted pediatrician, his wife an eminent cardiologist. Unfortunately, their only daughter suffered from a compromised heart condition. The trio had attended a party the previous evening. It was time to drop the daughter to school and the father knocked at the door. But the cherubic girl did not respond. Life was snuffed out; tragedy had struck the family and a pall of gloom descended.

A few weeks back an old aunt had kicked the bucket. It was a double whammy for the family, and they were inconsolable. Several centuries ago, in the time of the Buddha, a woman lost her only child to the cruel hands of

fate. In an anguished state she implored the Enlightened One to resuscitate the dead child. Buddha, the compassionate, agreed to perform the miracle. He asked the lady to collect mustard seeds from all the houses of the village which had never seen death or grief. The woman knocked at the doors of all the houses in the village but returned empty handed. Handling grief is a challenging task and only skillful minds can undertake this responsibility.

The doctor couple who could not save their precious child were subsumed into a cesspool of anger, guilt, sadness, pangs of loneliness, numbness, and a yearning for their beloved one. To overcome their grief and desolation, the husband, a moderate drinker, became a quotidian one and his spouse began administering herself sedatives.

Several eminent psy-



chologists like Parker, Arewill and Worden have zeroed in on the point that those suffering from grief, need to move on from the feeling of numbness, pining, depression, a feeling of shock and despair to the process of recovery. It is important for the

grieving to accept the reality of the loss, experience the pain of the departed one, adjust to the environment of living without the deceased person.

Medical science has made rapid advancements such that proper diagnosis, therapy, and

counselling along with proper medication can trigger the change agent in the wrecked mind. Alternatively, there are techniques like hypnosis and even providing ECT (in the worst-case scenario) to address the problem.

The Theravada Buddhist traditions have dealt with the subject of handling grief in a dynamic manner. The human mind by the process of strong internal resolution can overcome this vicissitude in life by mindfulness. The process is called Satipatthana.

The emotionally wrought can find solace and succour by becoming aware of the reality about the impermanence of events, happenings, and people. The mind should become strong to accept the reality and look ahead. There are breathing techniques like Vipassana and Sudarshan Kriya which have proven ability

to transfigure the mind from a depressed state to a positive one. Both the techniques have been validated by medical science as alternative therapies and have the power to alter the thought process, bringing it to the present moment.

Several grieving souls adopt holistic measures like the breathing techniques mentioned, meditation, pranayama, yoga, chanting of mantras, being in communion with nature or seva to overcome their grief and restore normalcy in their lives. It is the recalcitrant human mind which acts as a deterrent and needs to be tamed. "Grief is in two parts. The first is loss. The second is remaking of life," writes Anne Roiphe.

(The writer is a CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd and is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Several join, express their faith on Shiv Sena

Resolve to restore rights of locals



JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 12

Influenced by raising the voice on public issues and restoration of rights of local people around 100 people from various political parties join the hand with Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

In a program organized in Karmchi area of district Udhampur in the presence of state chief Manish Sahni, about 100 BJP workers and supporters joined the party holding placards written "Resignation from BJP", "Time for Shiv Sena" joined

and expressed their faith in Shiv Sena. Party Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh Organizer, Shaikh Muhammad, President Kamgar Raj Singh, District Udhampur President Sanjeev Sharma welcomed the new entrant with Shiv Bandhan and Nishan.

The local people present on this occasion informed the Shiv Sena leaders about all their problems including the plight of roads, lack of electricity, water supply, pension for senior citizens and disabled people.

Sahni said in his

address that the government is wasting crores of rupees of public tax in the name of smart city, while the people of hundreds of villages including Karimchi village of Udhampur, Har Tehran are deprived of basic facilities like roads, electricity and water. Sahni assured that Shiv Sena pledges to restore the first rights of local people on better education, health, free electricity and water and jobs and educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. In all the upcoming elections, Shiv Sena candidates will con-

test the elections with this resolve and will prove to be true to the test of the public. Sahni announced the Rajesh Verma, who had joined the party, as the district general secretary while Muhammad Hussain, Bashir Ahmed, Ghulam Haider, Muhammad Riaz were included in the list of officials of village Har Tehran and Mancha, Muhammad Shaheel in the list of officials of village Karimchi unit. On this occasion. Many party leaders including Mangu Ram, Vishal Verma, Neelam were present on this occasion.

CUJ inaugurates Hindi Creative Writer's Workshop

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Under the joint auspices of the Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi and the Department of Hindi and other Indian languages, a five-day Hindi creative writer's workshop was inaugurated at the Central University of Jammu. This workshop will continue till 16th February.

The inauguration ceremony of the workshop organized under the coordination of Professor Bharat Bhushan, Head of the Hindi Department, inspired by the inspiration of the University Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, was chaired by the Registrar of the University Prof. Yashwant Singh.

As a special guest at the inauguration ceremony, Professor Sunil Baburav Kulkarni, Director of the Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi, said that the Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi has always been



striving for the promotion of Hindi in non-Hindi speaking areas. The Directorate has made efforts to reach Hindi to every village in all directions of the country. During the corona period when the workshops were canceled, the direct organization of workshops has also led to the development of literary creative ability in the students along with the development of leadership skills in the children. He said that to become a poet, one must have the ability to express oneself. Poetry has also become important for a career in

the present era.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ said that the Hindi creative writer's workshop in non-Hindi speaking areas will definitely increase interest in literature among the students here and it will also lead to the growth of Hindi literature. In today's scientific age, there is a great need for literature. Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean School of Languages, said that in the developed India of today, there is a need to promote education based on Indian values among the youth. For this, youth should study literature

deeply. At the beginning of the program, the Head of the Hindi Department welcomed all the guests and introduced them. External specialists present at the program included Prof. Ashok Kumar, Punjab University, Hindi literature Dr. Adarsh Prakash, litterateur Dr. Kshama Kaul, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma and Assistant Director Shri Nattthul from the Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi were honored with mementos. The program was conducted by the department's Assistant Prof. Dr. Vandana Sharma, while the vote of thanks was given by co-coordinator Dr. Bijendra of the gratitude department. The successful organization of the program was also due to the special contribution of the department's co-coordinator Dr. Shashikant Mishra, Assistant Professor Dr. Ratnesh Yadav, Dr. Arvind, Dr. Vinay Shukla besides research scholars and other students.

Need to maintain secular character of society for peace, devp: Sadhotra

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Former Minister and JKNC Additional General Secretary, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today released the annual calendar taken out by National Secular Forum (NSF) in a simple but impressive ceremony organized at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here.

Ajay Sadhotra was the chief guest whereas Former Minister and President JKNC Central Zone, Babu Rampaul presided over the occasion. Ankush Abrol, JKNC Provincial Joint Secretary; and Dr Vikas Sharma, JKNC Zonal Secretary were the guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Sadhotra lauded NSF for propagating the message of secularism. He emphasized on the need to spread the message of oneness among the differ-



ent sections of the society. "India is home to cultural and religious diversity. Under such circumstances, it is highly imperative to keep secularism intact to strengthen the nation," he said.

He exuded confidence that youth of the nation will thrive to strengthen the bond of amity and brotherhood among different communities.

Babu Rampaul also lauded the efforts of NSF particularly promoting

the cause of patriotism by remembering revolutionaries who fought with the British Empire and secured freedom for us.

Earlier, NSF State Secretary, Vikshay Vashist welcomed all the esteemed guests and briefed about the special features of the calendar. He said that Jayanti of martyrs of Independence have been mentioned on each page so that the younger generation could also remember them.

Mohd Omar Farooq NSF Jammu University President, Vineet Gupta Jammu University Chairman, Abhishek Uppal Jammu District Chairman, Roshan Sharma President Jammu District, Rahul Shah President Cluster University, Atul Sharma Senior Vice-President Jammu University, Gorav partap Singh, Roohullah Farooq, Mehtab, Suman, Baber sohil, Ashu, Faayez Iqbal and others were also present on the occasion.

Congress launches nationwide agitation to get Agnipath scheme scrapped



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

NSUI Jammu Kashmir Launched "Jai Jawan Movement" against the 'Agnipath Scheme' here today at JKPCC Office, Shaheedi Chowk Jammu. President JKPCC Shri Vikar Rasool Wani was the Chief guest of the Program.

The function was organized by JKNSUI President Shri Ajay Lakhotra and attended by Former National President NSUI & Member CWC Mr. Neeraj Kundan, PCC General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org) & Narinder Sharma, Chairman Social Media Dept. Jatin K Raina, I/C PYC HQ Ricky Dalotra, Senior NSUI functionaries Bhavanyu Bhagat, Meh-

ood Kadri, Manas Gandhi, Javed Chauhan, Kamra Mubarak, Tarun Manhas and others.

Speaking on the occasion PCC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani said that the Agnipath scheme affected a large section of society, as the armed forces would not be in a position to protect the country 's vast borders, after some years. He said that country like India don't want soldiers on contract. Only regular soldiers can save the country, adding that the armed forces already have three lakh soldiers less. After 10 years, there will be only 10 lakh soldiers in India, out of which only three lakh will be regular soldiers. This will weaken our country. We will slip into slav-

ery again.", wani added. He said that "Army veterans were not consulted and Agnipath is Modi's brainwave. It has created a divide among soldiers and that's why we are today launching the Jai Jawan Mission.

The young candidates who cleared examinations but were not given appointment letters are sitting in protest at Jantar Mantar. "We will continue the agitation till we get justice for the 1.5 lakh young individuals and the Agnipath scheme is scrapped," he said. These candidates who were selected but not recruited had earlier met Rahul Gandhi and had been assured full support from the Congress.

IGP Jammu, IG CID promoted to ADGP rank, to serve at present posts

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Jammu and Kashmir Home department on Monday ordered promotion of two IGP's to the rank of Additional Director General of police with their current post declared as equivalent to ADGP. According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, IGP Jammu Anand Jain and IGP CID Nitish Kumar have been promoted to the rank of ADGP. The order stated that the officers shall continue in the present position, with the post declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of ADGP, till held by them.

Shenaz Ganai not a NC leader, quitted Party in 2020: Spokesperson JKNC

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

On former MLC Shenaz Ganai joining the BJP, JKNC leader and State Spokesperson, Imran Nabi Dar says, "Shenaz Ganai quit the JKNC in 2020 after she contested the DDC elections... This is all wrong news being circulated on social media. She was not a JKNC leader."

Art is a key factor in dissolving boundaries: Umesh Rai



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Yesterday, cultural event titled "The Cultural Ensemble: Nritya, Natak aur Sur Sangam" was held at the prestigious Brigadier Rajendra Singh Auditorium of the University of Jammu. The event, under the patronage of Professor Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, captivated the audience with a delightful blend of music, dance, and theatre.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu underlined the profound impact of art and music in transcending barriers saying, "Music and Art plays a big role in dissolving the boundar-

ies. I'm glad to see such an effort done by the teams who performed here." He emphasized the importance of such cultural endeavors. He commended the performers for their remarkable talent and dedication, lauding their efforts in promoting harmony and unity through the arts.

The evening was expertly organized by Anju Bhasin, Sanjana Kaul, and Jyoti Vakhlu, key members of the JK Women Science Congress. The highlight of the event was a spellbinding classical dance performance choreographed by Dr. Priya Dutta from the Indian Music and Fine Arts (IMFA). The rhythmic beats of the dancers

reverberated through the auditorium, enchanting all present.

Adding to the grandeur of the evening was a poignant theatre play based on Girish Karnad's 'Nagmandala', skillfully presented by Ifra Kak and her team. The play depicted the significance of respecting women in society, leaving the audience captivated and engrossed in the storyline.

The Cultural Ensemble event at the University of Jammu left a lasting impression on all attendees and reaffirming the power of creativity and expression in fostering understanding and appreciation across diverse communities.

Police organises 04 days workshop on investigation of UAPA & NDPS cases in Ganderbal

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEB 12

Police in Ganderbal organised four days workshop on investigation of UAPA & NDPS cases at the Conference Hall of DPO Ganderbal for Investigating Officers (IOs) in order to adopt the latest techniques and standard practices to expedite the investigation of UAPA & NDPS cases.

The workshop was chaired by SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS accompanied by DySP Hqrs Ganderbal Shri Gh Hassan-JKNS alongwith senior Police officers of the district.

During the workshop, chairing officer impressed upon the participating officers that progress for adopting the latest technologies and standard practices to expedite UAPA & NDPS cases on merits by means of collecting electronic Evidences, Seizure, Attachment & Forfeiture of property. Moreover, he also stated that Gazetted Officers shall supervise the IOs by their own. The workshop will be culminated on 15/02/2024.

National Open Day celebrated at SMVDU

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

SMVDU successfully organized a day-long first edition of the National Open Day @ SMVDU on 10th February 2024. The University opened its gate to the schools and colleges and witnessed a huge footfall of graduating students from across the Jammu and Udhampur regions, excited and eager to explore the possibilities of education in the university. The Open Day was organized by the university to provide a chance to the school and college students to visit and experience the university first hand. The students were provided a vivid and detailed depiction on the courses being offered and on accommodation and other facilities in the campus. More than 250 students belonging to different academic streams, accompanied by their faculty members participated enthusiastically in the event. The participating colleges included GDC



Reasi, GDC Udhampur, Women Degree College Udhampur, Parade College Jammu, GDC Akhnoor, GDC R S Pura, GDC Paloura among others. The programme started with the morning session at the Matrika auditorium. The Associate Dean, Alumni and International affairs, Dr. Mir Irfan welcomed the visiting students and briefly explained the purpose and importance of the event. He urged the students to utilize the opportunity to learn about the current trends and updates on technological advancements in the area they wish to pursue. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean (Academic Affairs) showcased the details of the academic programmes being offered by the university and emphasized

on the limitless opportunities for knowledge and career building through these programmes. Dean, Students Welfare, Prof. Raghendra Mishra gave an insight of the accommodation, cultural, sports and other related facilities provided to the students in the university campus. The Honorable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar also addressed the guest students and faculty. He accentuated the invaluable role of such open day events in decision making for a student's prospective career. He also assured that the university shall be very soon organizing the second edition of the event. In the afternoon session the students visited the various departments of the university, interacted with the faculty and

students, inspected and queried on the ongoing research in various labs. They were guided by the NSS volunteers of SMVDU to a tour around the hostels, library and other campus facilities. The visiting students showed immense visible exhilaration throughout the tour. During the feedback in the evening session the students narrated their excitement and shared their enriching experience and the take away of the tour. In the end the Vote of thanks was presented by the Dean, Alumni and International affairs and coordinator of the event Dr. Yugal Khajuria. The event was very effectively coordinated by the Coordinator and Co-ordinators of the event, Dr. Ratna Chandra, Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Dr. Sakshi Arora, Dr. Mir Irfan, Dr. Ankush Raina, Dr. Gautam Narula, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma under the initiative and guidance of the Honorable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar.

Apni Party will end discrimination in J&K if it forms Govt: Altaf Bukhari

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

The Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari Monday said that if his Party forms the next Govt they would end the discrimination in Jammu and Kashmir by ensuring equitable development, employment to the educated unemployed youth, revamp of educational and health care infrastructure across the erstwhile State. Altaf Bukhari was addressing a public meeting here at Gole Gujral, Jammu. The largely attended meeting was organized by Party leader, Balbir Singh (Bawa).

In his address, Bukhari commended Bawa for organizing an impressive meeting and his work among the people to address their issues, especially in absence of an elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I see a wave of change in Jammu. People want to give a chance to a new political party because they feel misled by the traditional political parties in Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu have also developed a feeling of disconnection with the BJP after 2014 last assembly elections in which the Jammu voted the BJP to power. However, the BJP failed to fulfil the promises which were made with the people," he said while expressing his support to the people who were feeling alienated without an elected Govt. While the country is witnessing assembly elections in various states, he said that "The assembly elections are not being held in Jammu and Kashmir for the last five years without citing any reason."

"The Panchayats and Municipalities have completed terms, but no elections were declared for these democratic institu-



tions including the assembly elections in J&K," he said.

Expressing surprise over the unruly delay in holding elections in J&K, he apprehended that the BJP might be worried about anguish against them among the masses because they have failed completely.

He however appreciated the people for extending their support to the Apni Party, especially in Jammu.

He asked the people to bring change in Jammu and Kashmir by supporting the Party candidates so that his Party can form an elected Govt and represent the people to resolve the issues. He also sought support of the people for the restoration of statehood.

Appreciating the Govt of India for railway link up to Rajouri, the Party President demanded that the railway line should be extended up to Poonch and then the border district shall also be linked through the railway line with Uri for 12 months connectivity (all weather) that would help the local economy to grow and the security forces on the other hand.

He said that the railway line shall also be further extended from Kupwara

to Karnah - Karalpora etc unconnected area to provide better connectivity through Indian Railways in the rural and unexplored populated areas in Kashmir Valley.

Regarding the worsening infrastructure in Govt schools across Jammu and Kashmir, he said that: "We have 23000 Govt schools and well qualified teachers. Of these 23000 schools, many have no buildings or proper infrastructure and 70% lack toilets yet the people are advised to send their children to the Govt schools where improvement is needed."

He questioned the previous Govts for their failure in upgrading and developing the school infrastructure whereas reports suggest shortage of subject specialist teachers in the schools.

"Many schools have no electricity, no desks for students to sit on, and the students are compelled to sit on the floors in the classrooms," he said, and he also expressed concern over the shortage of doctors, staff, and technicians in the hospitals/Primary Health Centers across J&K.

Expressing dismay over increasing unemployment, he raised a question mark on the objectionable / delayed / cancellation of

recruitment process for various posts due to which the aspirants have become over aged and sparked various protests.

The projects have failed to complete on given deadlines like the Jammu-Srinagar Highway that has become a cause of problem for the transporters and commuters because of delay in its completion, he added.

He also expressed concern over the unaddressed issues of the transporters / drivers who face problems in Nagrota (Jammu), Udhampur, Qazigund (Kashmir) whenever they are stranded for days without drinking water, and toilets etc.

Meanwhile, he said that his Party would reduce losses of the electricity and save the public money even after providing free of cost 500 units and 300 units of electricity to each family in J&K during summer and winter seasons.

Instead of harassing the common people, he said that the power department should penalize the big industrialists and recover the revenue from them in place of harassing the residential power consumers.

Expressing shock over the less amount of compensation to the border

shelling victims, he said that the compensation amount should be enhanced from Rs 5 lakhs by the Govt, and he shall highlight the same before the authorities.

Regarding concerns of the people about Punjabi language, he said that the parents shall encourage their children for Punjabi teaching/learning and assured them that the Punjabi language shall be taught in the schools.

He however also insisted on teaching Hindi, Punjabi, Dogri and Kashmiri languages.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include State General Secretary, Syed Asgar Ali, Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, Media Advisor, Farooq Andrabi, Additional General Secretary, Arun Kumar Chibber, Provincial Vice President, Adv Nirmal Kotwal, State Secretary, Mohinder Singh Parihar, District President Jammu Rural-A, Pushp Dev Kumar Uppal, District President Jammu Rural-B, Harpreet Singh, SC State President Bodh Raj Bhagat, Provincial Secretary/Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta, State President, Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Vice President Youth/Media Coordinator/Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, General Secretary Youth/Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya, Provincial President, Jammu Youth, Vipul Bali, Raj Kumar Sharma, Adil Wani, Vikram Rathore, Bhagat Ram, Tirath Singh, Vaibhav Mattoo, Anirudh Vasist, Neelam Gupta, Vicky Sudhan, Ritu Pandita, Sheetal Sharma, Asif, Vishal Narana, Sheikh Bhardawaj, Sheepta, Devinder Singh Gill, Harjeet Singh Gill, Vipin, Amarjeet Singh, Joginder Sanam, Harjeet Singh, Yash Choudhary and others.

Congress will bounce back to power in J&K: Ravinder, Naresh



JINews SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, FEB 12

Senior Congress leaders and former MLCs Mr Ravinder Sharma and Mr Naresh Gupta have said that Congress will emerge stronger and bounce back to power in J& K after assembly elections.

Addressing a largely attended meeting of Congress workers at Dak Bungalow Sunderbani today, JKPC Senior Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma & Vice president and former MLC Naresh Gupta AICC observer for Jammu lok sabha seat, today claimed that Congress will come back to power in J&K after emerging as single largest party will form government with like minded secular parties.

They said that Congress will emerge stronger enough to form the government with like minded parties, as no party will be able to form government without CONGRESS which is only secular and democratic party in the country, fighting against dictatorship of Modi government.

The senior Congress

leaders said that people are fed up with anti poor and anti common people policies of the ruling party whose diversionary and divisive politics is exposed before people. BJP has nothing to sell except indulge in religious politics, while people reel under unprecedented price rise and large scale unemployment.

Urging party workers to gear up for the ensuing lok sabha elections and strengthen booth and village committees to defeat BJP which has polarized the society. Congress believes in Hindi Muslim unity and religious brotherhood for peace and harmony in the country.

They said that record unemployment of last 45 years, price rise, murder of democracy in J-K apart from snatching our statehood, rights to land and jobs, failure to regularise daily wagers and stopping of old age, widow pension and eviction of farmers from lands, crushing rights of employees are all anti people and anti democratic actions of BJP government. Congress fought for freedom and

democracy in the country while Modi government is ruling the country with the help of ED, CBI, IT & other agencies and targeting opposition leaders to hijack democracy.

Neeraj Gupta Chief Media coordinator JKPC raised great concern over the hijacking of media in the country by BJP and the truth is not coming to people. Je said media is the watchdog of democracy and has a very important role to safeguard democracy. Block president s N C Sharma, Ajot Singh, Tirth Ram Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Dr Naresh Sharma, Babu Ram Bhagat principal retd K L Khajuria & Vijay Damral, Yog Raj, Raj Kumar Sharma, Govind Sudan, Rakesh Narwal, Ashwanii Sharma, Ramji Dass, Mukhtaar Singh, Dwarka Nath, Nobat Ram, Chander Bakshi, Virinder Singh, Pankaj Rains, addressed the gathering.

Several prominent persons joined the party including Sham Lal, Dodu Ram both Bankers retd, Raj Shah, Farooq Ahmed, Sadakat Hussein, Ayib Ahmed & others.

Demanding restoration of waiting lists in recruitments JJSF holds protest at GGM Science College Jammu

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Activists of Jammu Joint Students Federation on Monday held a massive protest at GGM Science College Jammu demanding restoration of waiting list provision in recruitments. The protest was led by Keshav Malhotra District President JJSF. Scores of JJSF activists holding play cards in their hands gathered at the main gate of the college and raised slogans demanding justice and restoration of waiting lists.

Addressing the media Bharat Verma President GGM Science College Jammu said that the decision of abrogation of waiting list provision in recruitment rules is against the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Due to paper leaks followed by cancellation of three mega recruitments of 2021-22 i.e JKPSI, Junior engineer, Finance Account Assistant various recruitment examinations were piled up. With some new advertisements in 2023 and old, results and final list for these examinations are being declared by JKSSB. There are many candidates who have been selected in multiple advertisements on merit but



they could join only one post and thus leave other posts vacant. Since there are many candidates who are on merit and they are also qualified in the exam. They should be given a fair chance for their appointment in respect of their merit.

Keshav Malhotra, Jammu District President of JJSF said that provision of waiting list in recruitments is not new but it was already there in recruitment rules of 2010. The government took an arbitrary decision to abrogate Sub-rule (7) of rule 14, the provision for the waiting list. Abandoning the waiting list undermines the principle of meritocracy. The government should reinstate the waiting list provision in recruitment

rules to protect rights of legitimate candidates as soon as possible. He also added that the action of the government to suppress the voice of youth using police in college today is unacceptable and provocative. We are exercising our freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution of India as a fundamental right. We are concerned and so the government should be as it is related to the youths of Jammu and Kashmir. We urge Hon'ble LG to address the issue and restore waiting list provision in recruitment as provided by all states and union territories as well as government of India in recruitments.

Raghav Singh, President JJSF SPMR College

of Commerce addressing the media, appealed to the administration to consider the genuine demand of youth at earliest. They said JJSF is all prepared to lead a province level agitation for restoration of the waiting list if our demands are not addressed. They said that JJSF will be organising numerous protests in different colleges of other districts to gear up this movement.

Others present during the protest are: Aryan Sharma Sr Vice President, Ritik Verma Vice President, Manish Khullar, Samaksh Sharma Gen Secretary, Vansh Sharma, Vansh Johal Working President, Vishal Dogra, Karan Kumar, Akhil Sharma, Devinder Verma, Dishant Jamwal etc.

GDC Billawar organizes Awareness Camp on Acid Attack Survivors

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Government Degree College Billawar organized awareness camp on Acid Attack Survivors on 12th February, 2024 under the mentorship of Dr. Alka Sharma, Principal GDC Billawar. Woman Study Center and IQAC, GDC Billawar in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Billawar organized this program.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Dr. Manu Sharma, Head, Department of English and member Woman Study Center (WSC), GDC Billawar. A special lecture was delivered by Adv. Honey Bali, Resource Person of the event. She explains the motives behind acid attacks that range from something as simple as a girl rejecting a boy's gestures of affection, to more deep-seated cultural issues such as dowry. While vengeance is a key reason behind this heinous crime. She also gave a detailed list legal repercussions in the form of stringent punishments if one commits such crime. The program was attended by the faculty members of the college along with more than 100 students.

Nadir Godrej honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by PMFAI



JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries Limited (GIL) and Chairman of Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL) and Astec LifeSciences Limited, has been awarded the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pesticides Manufacturers & Formulators Association of India (PMFAI). Facilitated yesterday at the 5th edition of PMFAI-SML Annual Agchem Awards 2024, it was organized at the sidelines of 19th International Crop Science Conference & Exhibition (ICSCC Dubai 2024). Established in 1967, PMFAI is a national association representing Agrochemicals/Pesticide Industry with 221 large, medium and small-scale Indian Agrochemical industries as its members. It works to enhance agricultural competitiveness by advocating for improvements and innovations in technologies that provide

farmers with quality crop protection products. The Annual Agchem Awards were instituted by PMFAI in 2018 to acknowledge and honor exceptional achievements and contributions in the Indian Agrochemical Industry. The Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed upon Nadir Godrej recognizes his outstanding contributions to the Indian Agrochemical Industry and his remarkable efforts to promote technologies and contributing to the growth of Indian Agrochemical Industry. Reflecting on the recognition, Mr. Godrej expressed his gratitude, stating, "I am deeply honored to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from PMFAI. This recognition is a celebration of the collective dedication and tireless efforts of the entire team. Our commitment to providing innovative and sustainable crop protection solutions aligns with the mission of PMFAI to enhance agricultural competitiveness and pro-

mote sustainable growth. I am truly thankful for this honor and inspired by the collaborative efforts that brought us here" On the groups commitment for agrochemical and CDMO space, he further added "Our unwavering commitment to innovation and enhancing agriculture productivity is evident through our dedicated Research & Development units. Our firm belief in the power of collaboration and actively engaging with multinational companies allows us to consistently deliver tailored solutions that address farmers' challenges, ensuring our commitment to excellence and sustained performance in the agricultural sector. This recognition further reaffirms our commitment to excellence and sustainability in the agricultural sector." This award not only celebrates a lifetime of exceptional contributions but also adds to Godrej's long-standing legacy of progressive contributions.

BJP emerges as vibrant force in J&K: Neelam Langeh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, FEB 12

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become a vibrant force in Jammu and Kashmir with people of all shades of life looking at its leadership to ameliorate their lives by alleviating sufferings caused due to decades' old misrule of successive Governments headed by the National Conference and Congress.

This was stated by Neelam Langeh, President BJP SC Morcha and former MLA while speaking at the joining programme at Beaspur area of Suchetgarh constituency.

Scores of individuals, influenced by the welfare policies of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, pledged their support to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during the programme. Esteemed leaders like Darshan Kundal, a diligent leader from Sujampur, also reinforced the BJP's stronghold among



their supporters. Among the dignitaries present at the occasion were VDG Chairman, Shri Basant Thakur, and Ramesh Katoch Ji. Langeh said since BJP's mission is to work for country and its development therefore by strengthening the party every worker is accomplishing his or her solemn duty to make India a strong force to reckon with. He

said that there is no match to BJP in the UT of J&K and elsewhere in the country but as a mature political outfit it is the responsibility of all its constituents to continuously work for its meaningful growth so that it remains at the forefront and becomes the first choice of one and all. Neelam Langeh expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support

and emphasized the BJP's unwavering dedication to the welfare of every citizen. He underscored the transformative initiatives undertaken by the BJP-led government at both the central and state levels, which have significantly impacted the lives of millions across the nation.

The joining programme witnessed an influx of individuals from diverse backgrounds, united by their shared belief in the BJP's ideology and leadership. Neelam Langeh welcomed the new members into the BJP family, emphasizing the collective strength and determination that drives the party forward.

The senior BJP leader reassured everyone by echoing the slogans of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" under the Modi government. He fervently appealed for a resounding victory for Modi Ji in 2024, urging the electorate to solidify their support.

Anti Crime Bureau, NGO organizes Langar at Uttarbeni Devsthan



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

On the holy day of Moni Amavasya, Anti Crime Bureau, NGO organized Langar for the Devotees at Uttarbeni Dev Sthan, this program was organized by Anti Crime Bureau Chairman Sham Lal Gupta in which members of his team were also present.

Chairman Gupta told that his organization does social work from time to time, his organization

believes in doing good work for the people and provides wedding items to the daughters of poor families.

Gupta also thanked Police Station Incharge Ajay Ji and the other Members Present were Councillor Sahil Gupta from Municipal Committee Bishnah and Team members Anchal Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Tushar Digra, Rohit Kumar, Vansh Kumar, Ayan Mehra, Suraj Kumar and Bunty Kumar.

Congres Leaders Congratulate Pahari community for ST

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Several Senior Pahari leaders of Congress party have congratulated the people of Pahari tribe over the achievement of ST status after the struggle of several decades of the pahari community & remembered the Pahari leadership of different shades & expressed gratitude to the successive governments for support to the struggle.

In a statement senior Congress leaders of pahari tribe including Former Minister Shabir Ahmed Khan, Former Dy Chairman Legislative Council Jahangir Husain Mir & Former MLC Ravinder Sharma have expressed joy over the fulfilment of long pending demand of Pahari community & remembered the contributions of several stalwarts of the community, irrespective of their political shades, in the long drawn struggle & paid rich tributes to all of them, for their contributions to the cause.

They recalled the services of several great stalwarts of the pahari movement from seventies & early eighties who achieved the recognition

of Pahari as a language in the 6th schedule of J&K Constitution in seventies, got the case for scheduled tribe status recommended to centre in 1989, secured Constitution of Pahari people welfare board in 1993 and achieved so many milestones including unanimous resolution of state Assembly and passing of bill of 5 percent reservation in 2014 in both houses. The case for ST status was recommended time and again by the successive governments of different political parties including the present one who supported the pahari cause which culminated into success now.

They thanked present centre government and UT administration and all successive governments in past and all political parties of different ideological shades for their whole hearted support to the cause of pahari people, which resulted into the acceding of our demand & success of the struggle today. They said it's time to recall and remember all those people including political, social, intellectual & cultural personalities & other activists who struggled a lot and contributed in their own ways.

Vikar Rasool Wani meets Paddar fire victims in JMC, Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

JKPCC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani, today visited GMC Hospital Jammu and met the seriously injured persons in the fire incident at Palali Panchayat on Mchail Road Paddar (Kishtwar) in which three precious lives were lost and 15 injured, five of them are serious burnt undergoing treatment in GMC Hospital Jammu. He termed the incident as shocking and heart-wrenching. He demanded best medical facility for the injured and adequate exgratia relief to the next of kin of those killed and

also to the injured. PCC Chief while interacting with the media persons said that, there were series of fire incidents in erstwhile Doda Dist in every winter which is a matter of grave concern. It is advisable to look into the reasons and adequate measures should be taken to stop such incidents.

PCC Vice President Vinod Sharma, General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org), Narinder Sharma, Secretary Vijay Shastri, Chairman Social Media Jatin K. Raina, I/C PYC HQ Ricky Dalotra, Block President Paddar Th. Rangil Singh and others accompanied.

Reasi Police tightens noose on narcotics smugglers seizes illegal drugs, lodges FIR, arrests 02 accused



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Continuing the drive against drug abuse launched by District Police Reasi, today a performing routine naka duty at Puria, Pouni area where an Auto bearing Regd. No. JK20-4275 which was coming from Pouni side towards Puria, Domail was stopped for checking. During checking of the said vehicle, *18 strips (containing 10 tablets each) of Novotram and 45 strips (containing 10 tablets each)* of Denpinol P wrapped inside an orange colored polythene bag were recovered from the dash board of the vehicle. On enquiry, the driver of the vehicle disclosed his name as Gopal Krishan S/O Mohan Lal R/O Bharakh Tehsil Pouni Dis-

trict Reasi and co-driver disclosed his identity as Rakesh Singh @ Raju S/O Chatur Singh R/O Pouni. Both of them failed to give any satisfactory reply regarding the possession of tablets.

On this, a Case FIR No 11/2024 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act got registered at Police Station Pouni and investigation initiated. The arrest was made by *SHO Pouni Purab Singh under the supervision of DySP headquarter Reasi Neeraj Padyar- JKPS.*

Mohita Sharma-IPS Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multipronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse and will leave no stone unturned to curb this menace from the society.

SSP Jammu holds meeting with retired police officers at DPL Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 12.02.24

Jammu Police convened a meeting at Conference Hall DPL Jammu with about 50 retired police personnel.

SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar-IPS was the chief guest of the function. Retired police officers raised various issues confronting them and during the meeting various issues concerning retired police



personnel were discussed in detail. SSP Jammu said that the retired police officers are the assets of our

organization as they act as a link between Police and public. He further assured the retired police personnel that their genuine issues and problems would be taken up at an appropriate level for their early redressal.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks and with the assurance that such meetings will be held in future also to redress the grievances of the retirees.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 259 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of damaged components of LT control panel installed at Tube well Rajinder Nagar I along with allied works.	98,500/-	200/-	2000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

Date of Publishing : 10-02-2024 (04.00 pm).

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-02-2024 (04.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-02-2024 (04.00 pm) to 16-02-2024 (04.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 17-02-2024 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L₁ bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

JSM DN/4967-69
Dated: 09-02-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
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Modi Govt propelled J&K on path of progress: Kavinder

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB 12

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister, Kavinder Gupta asserted that the Union Government led by PM Narendra Modi has propelled J&K on a path of unprecedented progress as the region witnessed colossal uplift on the social and economical fronts.

Citing the figures recently shared by LG Manoj Sinha over the substantial increase in the GDP of the UT from Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 2.64 lakh crore in 2021-22, the BJP stalwart leader said that the quantitative data of the prosperity achieved is the testimony to the fact that Modi Government's policies have resulted into watershed moments for the UT as prosperity and peace are now the new norms with financial standings of the region touching extraordinary heights. He said that the



GDP for the year 2024-25 has been projected at Rs 2,63,399 crore which shows a growth of 7.5 percent, proving the fruitfulness of the BJP Government's visionary and mission oriented planning for Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the meeting of Panches, Sarpanches of Party's Panchayati Raj Cell in Samba today, Kavinder asserted that time has come when it could be claimed that the region has embarked on a voyage to achieve pinnacle of progress leaving behind the dark era of gloom and

distress only because of the insightfulness of PM Modi, who envisaged the path on which the UT is traversing today. He said that new infrastructure projects, investment incentives, and socio-economic development programmes aimed at empowering local communities and boosting employment opportunities have played a crucial role in the progress which the region has achieved in the last few years after the significant move of making Article 370 null and void by the Modi Government. He also underscored the

government's commitment to inclusive development, emphasizing efforts to address longstanding issues and bridge developmental gaps in the region.

Highlighting the recent influx of investments and the expansion of key sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and industry, Kavinder expressed optimism about the region's prospects for sustained growth and prosperity.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also lauded the successful implementation of central government schemes and flag-

ship initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, citing them as catalysts for socio-economic transformation and empowerment. He said that since the Modi government continues to prioritize development and empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir, it has become necessary that people should extend unconditional support to BJP in all the political contests to see the sea change in development scenario in the coming times as well.

Kavinder urged party workers to gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and ensure that people are informed about the key achievements of the Modi government.

Prominent among those who were present include Kashmir Singh, District President Samba, DDC member Subhash Bhagat, Sarpanch Surjeet Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Girdhari Lal, Puneet Mahajan and Bharat Bhushan.

DPS Kathua Class IX organizes inaugural Blessing Party for Class X Students



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

DPS Kathua witnessed a historic moment as Class IX students organized the first-ever Blessing Party for their seniors, the Class X students. This heartwarming initiative showcased the spirit of unity and support within the school community, marking a significant milestone in the school's history.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the diya, symbolizing the auspicious beginning of the day. The talented girl band of Class IX enthralled the audience with soulful melodies, setting the perfect ambiance for the occasion. The energy soared as the girls presented a lively Bollywood mashup

dance performance, followed by an electrifying bhangra performance by the boys, showcasing the vibrant cultural diversity of DPS Kathua.

Mr. Vivek Arora, the esteemed Principal of DPS Kathua, graced the event with his presence and addressed the gathering. He extended his heartfelt blessings to the Class X students as they prepare for their upcoming board examinations. Emphasizing the importance of discipline during exams, he urged the students to stay focused and dedicated towards their goals. Additionally, Mr. Arora commended the Class IX students for their exemplary initiative in organizing such a memorable and meaningful event, applauding their

teamwork and creativity. Mrs. Tajinder Kaur, the senior coordinator of DPS Kathua, conveyed her appreciation through a vote of thanks, lauding the Class IX students for their exceptional efforts in putting together a beautiful program. She extended her best wishes to the Class X students, encouraging them to approach their exams with confidence and determination, knowing that they have the support and blessings of their juniors.

The day concluded on a touching note with the distribution of gift tokens as a gesture of love and appreciation among the students, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and camaraderie within the DPS Kathua family.

Will bring back era of development, peace in J&K: Azad; Promises free electricity, ration for poor

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI FEB 12

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, today addressed a mammoth crowd at the public meeting in Kalakote, Rajouri. He fervently appealed for peace and unity while committing to fostering job opportunities and development, drawing parallels to his impactful tenure as Chief Minister. Azad highlighted his significant contributions to the development of Rajouri, including the establishment of a medical college and the sanctioning of crucial infrastructure projects such as roads, hospitals, districts, and schools. He said, "If you believe my government was the best in last 75 yrs, then lend me your support. Together, we can achieve even greater milestones, including the creation of more jobs, roads, hospitals, bridges, and provisions such as free electricity for the needy." Azad expressed his commitment to addressing poverty and ensuring access to essential services. He emphasized, "Despite my efforts, poverty still persists, and many struggle to afford electricity bills. Therefore, if entrusted with power, we will provide free elec-



tricity to those in need." Azad reaffirmed his commitment to reinstating the Roshni scheme, citing its significant benefits for the underprivileged. He said, "While acknowledging any misuse of the scheme, the government should have taken appropriate action. However, the scheme has undeniably uplifted many impoverished families." Azad also highlighted his party's stance on land eviction orders, stating, "We vehemently protested against such orders to ensure that no poor person would be adversely affected. Our priority is to safeguard the rights and welfare of poor and needy." Azad emphasized the importance of Hindu-Muslim unity and urged public to support leaders who prioritize humanity and development for all, regardless of religion or caste. Azad remarked, "In a hospital, we do not

inquire about the religion or caste of the blood we need. Similarly, why should we divide people based on such distinctions during elections? I vow to never discriminate and work tirelessly for the progress and upliftment of all." Among others who were present in the meeting were Vice chairman Mr. GM Saroori, General secretary RS Chib, Gen Sec Anita Thakur, Chief spokesperson Salman Nizami, state secretary Sunita Arora, Zonal President Gharu Ram, Provincial Vice president Adv. Ashok Sharma, Women wing president Prabha Salathia, Masood Choudhary state secretary, Sr DPAP leader Arun Sharma, Lovely Gupta state secretary, Zonal president Zahid Malik, Distt President Sushil Sharma, Anirudh Raina, Gourav Chopra, Khurshid Janam & others.

BJP dashed hopes of unemployed youth: Kundal



JNEWS SERVICE
VUJAYPUR/SAMBA, FEB 12

State Vice President of Congress Party and former minister Yashpal Kundal visited various panchayats of Rajpura block under Ramgarh assembly and heard the problems of the people. During this, people told about the increase in electricity bill, water shortage, rising inflation, unemployment etc. Addressing the people, former minister Kundal said that ever since the BJP government has come in the country, every section is troubled. Be it middle class or BPL category person, everyone is troubled. He said that the electricity department is sending arbitrary bills to people's homes, but the supply is not sufficient. Kundal said that daily wage employees of various departments are continuously protesting for their just demands. The government is ignoring it. People are not getting electricity. People are not able to get clean drinking water. Kundal said that inflation has increased so much, cylinder prices have reached the sky. Now women are forced to collect wood

again. He said that the dream of the youth of border areas to join the army has been shattered by the government by starting the Agneepath scheme. Kundal said that the results of the students who have appeared for different posts are not coming out. Scams are taking place only in the BJP government which claims to be corruption free. Kundal said that since independence, people have been supporting themselves by farming on the land, but till date they have not got the ownership rights. We demand that the government should give ownership rights to the people before the Lok Sabha elections. At the same time, he said that the people whose land is in front of fencing have not received compensation for many years, we want to tell the government that people should be given compensation for their lands as soon as possible. In the end, Kundal said that the Congress Party stands with the people of the state and the unemployed students. Kundal appealed to the people to vote in favor of the Congress Party in the upcoming elections.

Bali Bhagat appoints SSCs of all 47 assembly constituencies of Kashmir Province

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former Minister, as well as the In-charge of the State Election Committee for the Social Sampark Department, BJP, J&K, today announced the appointment of Assembly Constituency-wise Social Sampark Convenors for forty seven Assembly segments of Kashmir province.

This strategic move comes in anticipation of the forthcoming Parliamentary elections both nationally and within the Union Territory.

Those nominated are Idrees Ahmad Khanday for Gulmarg, Reyaz Ahmad Denthoo for Sopore, Gulham Hussain Dar for Pattan, Nisar Ahmad Ganie for Wagoora Kreeri, Reyaz Ahmad Sheikh for Uri, Parvaiz Ahmad Mir for Rafiaband, Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie for Baramulla, Hilal Ahmad Bhat for Budgam, Faroz Ahmad Teli for Charare sharif,



Fayaz Ahmad Magray for Khansahib, Adil Ahmad Dar for Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Para for Beerwah, Altaf Thakur for Tral, Nisar Ahmad Mir for Pampore, Suhaib Ayoub for Pulwama and Aftab Ahmad Yattoo for Rajpora, Malik Ashaq Hussain for D.H.Pora, Mukhtiyar Ahmed for Kulgam, Abid Hussain Khan for Devsar, Ghulam Mohammad Bhat for Shopian, Aamir Iqbal Shah for Zainpora, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat for Kangan, Showkat Hussain Shah for Ganderbal, Ajaz Ahmed Wani for Sonawari, Zahir Sultan for Bandipora, Khurshed Ahmed Chacket for Gurez (ST), Najeeb-ullah Lone for Anantnag, Choudhary

Roshan for Kokernag ST, Mohd Amin Bhat for Shahabad-Dooru, Maqbool Ganie for Pahalgam, Sideeq Ahmed Khan for Shangus Anantnag East, Ab. Majeed Hajam for Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Nazir Ahmad Ganie for Anantnag West, Muneer Shah for Iddgah, Mehraj Ah Mir for Chanapora, Muneer Ahmed for Habakadal, Ishitiyaq Ahmed for Hazaratbal, Aquib Bhat for Khanyar, Mohd Ashraf Dar for Shaltang, Zahoar Ahmed for Zadibal, Arshad Ahmed for Lal Chowk, Irfan Ahmad Khan for Trehgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Rather for Langate, Gulzar Ahmad Malik for Handwara, Gh Hassan Bhat for Kupwara, Hafizullah for Lolab and Irshad Ahmad Khan for Karnah.

The senior BJP leader Bali Bhagat emphasized that the appointed convenors have been entrusted with the crucial responsibility of organizing all segments of society within their respective constituencies.

Tirupati Balaji Temple Suptt., office in-charge visit Shri Raghunath Temple, Jammu



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

On Monday, Tirupati Balaji Temple Superintendent R.C. Subramaniam and temple office in-charge Ramesh Babu visited the famous Shri Raghunath temple of Jammu and saw Lord Shri Ram ji and saw every part of the temple complex. After taking blessings of Lord Shri Ram Ji, Super-

intendent R.C. Subramaniam and Ramesh Babu toured the entire temple complex and sang praises of the temple after seeing its beauty. He said that Jammu is a city of temples and he had the good fortune to have the darshan of Lord Ram in this temple, which left him heartily satisfied. He said that Raghunath temple has been constructed very beautifully.

On this occasion, as per the instructions of Brigadier RS Langleh Dharma Trust Head, Ashok Kumar Sharma Secretary, Superintendent R.C. Who honored Subramaniam and Ramesh Babu by giving them a picture and chunni of Lord Shri Ram? During this time, Virendra Gupta, Varun Padha social worker and others were present with him.

Transporters delegation meets Admin Secretary Transport



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Today, the transporters delegation led by Chairman Ajit Singh met with the Secretary Transport Niraj Kumar, IAS to forward their grievances for the welfare of transport sector. A memorandum was also submitted for the same.

Members of the All J&K

Transporters' Welfare Association urged the Administrative Secretary Transport department. The Chairman of the

Association also gave memorandum to the Secretary transport. They all requests to kindly arrange a meeting with the Transport Commissioner, RTO Jammu and other concerning officers.

Rozgar Mela held in Leh

JNEWS SERVICE
CHOGLAMSAR/LEH, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The 12th Tranche of Rozgar Mela was organised in the historical Kumbha Hall of 24th Bn ITBP, Choglamsar in a colourful ceremony here today. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Sh Kailash Choudhary was the guest of honour on the occasion. He was accompanied by Member of Lok Sabha from Ladakh Sh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

The Mela was organised in 47 centres throughout the country where more than one lakh appointment letters were distributed to the selected candidates for different government sectors.

The Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi pressed the remote button to give appointment letters to more than one lakh personnel and virtually addressed the newly appointed personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Sh Kailash Choudhary reiterated the determination of the Govt of India to create more job opportunities for the youth and highlighted the role of the youth in the building of the nation. He further stated that the recruitment process today has been made transparent which is free from all types of bribery.

The Member of Lok Sabha from Ladakh Sh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal highlighted the role of ITBP in the service of the nation along with its main duty of protection of the Indo China border. He expressed his sincere thanks to ITBP for providing job opportunity to the youth of the region.

In his welcome address, Sh Shashi Chandra Jha, Commandant 24th Bn ITBP said that it was a pleasure and an honour on part of ITBP to organise the Mela as the

nodal agency in Ladakh. He hoped that the Mela would be helpful to create more job opportunities and would be functional in the participation of the youth in the development of the nation.

The 24th Bn ITBP, Leh, which was one of the 47 centres was tasked with the charge to distribute appointment letters to the newly appointed personnel of the Union Territory of Ladakh. A total of 26 candidates were present physically at the venue to receive the appointment letter from the Hon'ble Chief Guest while three personnel were connected virtually to the event. The event was attended by senior officials of ITBP including Sh Clay Khongsai, IPS, IG NW Ptr Ladakh, Sh Ashok Kumar Negi (PMG) DIG and other senior administrative officials of UT of Ladakh.

The event was followed by distribution of appointment letters by the Chief Guest to the candidates.

Secretary Health holds public darbar at Baramulla; Assesses public grievances, demands

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 12

Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today presided over a public darbar here under the ambitious public outreach cum grievances redressal programme of the government.

The participating delegations and general public projected several demands and grievances pertaining to the region encompassing both developmental and administrative concerns that necessitate immediate attention.

These included establishment of a mini secretariat at Baramulla to provide space for various offices, creation of an IT park, implementation of water transportation from Sopore to Baramulla, macadamization of



roads, installation of a fully-fledged MRI scan at GMC Baramulla, provision of portable water supply at various places, office accommodation for media persons and other related issues.

The Secretary had an exclusive interaction with the participants during the

darbar, listening to their grievances and demands. He promptly resolved many of the issues on the spot while providing clear directions to the concerned officers to address the remaining concerns raised by the attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abid Rasheed

assured the attendees that the administration is committed towards working in cohesion with the public to implement better governance practices and ensure timely resolution of their issues. He emphasized the primary objective of holding public darbars, emphasizing its role in facilitating direct engagement between the administration and the people at their doorsteps ensuring easier access for citizens to voice their concerns and engage with governmental authorities.

Dr. Abid Rasheed asked the officers to prepare a comprehensive action taken format to record all grievances raised during the public darbar, along with the progress made towards their resolution. Furthermore, he instructed the officers to keep follow up of action on all grievances raised during

the event for redressal within a 15-day timeframe as per feasibility.

Earlier, Dr. Abid Rasheed inspected stalls set up by various departments, including Education, Agriculture, Health, ICDS, Food Supplies among others. These stalls showcased a wide range of government schemes and services aimed at benefiting the public.

Later, the Secretary distributed sanction letters, golden cards and other certificates among the eligible beneficiaries.

Among others the event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Chief Planning Officer, Javaid Ahmad, district officers of various departments, social activists, delegations and locals from across the district.

DC Kathua chairs District Road Safety Committee meet

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 12

A meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr Rakesh Minhas, here in the DC office complex.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Basohli, Executive Engineer, PMGSY, representative of the BRO, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and other members were present.

Detailed discussions were held with respect to initiate corrective and safety measures along the vulnerable spots besides establishing smart traffic kiosks at identified locations. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that road safety underlines the need for effective imple-



mentation of measures to make the roads safe for travelling, minimizing road mishaps, injuries and deaths. He said district administration has made a workable plan to improve the road safety scenario in the district for which spirited participation of all the stakeholders will be required. He made a fervent appeal to the citizens of Kathua to adhere to the traffic regulations and contribute in ensuring congestion free and smooth traffic flow.

The DC called for spreading mass awareness about the safety rules and taking corrective measures to make the roads safe for commuters. He also stressed on the concerned officers to take all required measures to decongest the City roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

For strict enforcement of the traffic rules, the DC asked the MVA and traffic authorities to take stern action against the violators.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of Health Sector

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting aimed at assessing the working of the health sector and strategizing for its improvement.

The meeting discussed various critical issues of the health sector, including infrastructure, staff rationalization, availability of medical equipment and service delivery.

During the review, the DC emphasized the importance of enhancing healthcare services to meet the evolving needs of the public.

He stressed upon the concerned officers to identify areas of improvement to ensure quality healthcare services for all. Shakeel ul Rehman emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration and innovation to

address the challenges facing the health sector.

He underscored the need for proactive measures to enhance healthcare delivery and ensure the well-being of all citizens.

The DC further asked the concerned to ensure 100 percent saturation of online services of Health Sector for service improvement.

He directed, to conduct camps in schools and colleges for successful implementation of the tuberculosis elimination program.

The DC also directed to ensure 100 percent coverage of Ayushman Bharat and ABHA cards.

CMO Bandipora informed the chair that Health Department Bandi-



pora has attended 526831 patients through OPD and 70233 patients through IPD service besides conducting 1722 major surgeries and 6747 minor surgeries from April last year to January this year.

It was informed that

Bandipora has achieved 100% target for registration of families under AB-PMJAY by covering all 73390 families and has achieved 81.46% target for beneficiaries registered under AB-PMJAY and SEHAT.

in the district, including 833 C-section deliveries from April 2023 to Jan 2024. The meeting also discussed programmes carried out by the Health Department including Anemia Mukh Bharat, National programme

for control of blindness and visual impairment, National programme for Healthcare of elderly, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme beside other key programmes.

Dr. Rafi also apprised the chair regarding various issues faced by the health department, including the shortage of staff. The DC asked the concerned officers of the Health Department to explore the possibility of utilizing the services of trained professionals on a voluntary basis to temporarily compensate staff deficiency, if any, in healthcare institutions.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit; CMO Bandipora, Rafi Ahmad Salati; MS DH Bandipora, BMOs besides officials, administrators, and representatives from various healthcare facilities.

DC Bandipora flags-off group of farmers for Training/ Exposure Tour

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman on Monday flagged-off a group of 30 farmers/ orchardists for a training cum exposure tour to Lassipora Pulwama.

The exposure tour was organised by the Department of Horticulture Bandipora under ATMA.

Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, Farooq Ahmad along with other officers and officials of Horticulture Department were present on the occasion.

The DC on the occasion interacted with farmers and took feedback of various schemes and programmes implemented by the department.

The tour is aimed to enrich knowledge of farmers and enhance agricultural practices besides providing farmers firsthand experience and insights into innovative farming techniques, sustainable practices and modern technologies.

Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora informed that the tour will encompass visits to various units established at Lassipora Pulwama including CA Stores, Grading Lines and other Food Processing Units renowned for their excellence in farming methods.

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with experts and fellow farmers, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, he added.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews progress of work on JJM Works

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat today chaired a meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, aiming to ensure clean drinking water access to rural communities.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the crucial aspects of high-quality work, timely project completion, and effective supervision to achieve the goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The discussion highlighted significant advancements in Rajouri, with 298 JJM schemes having 660 components with estimated cost of Rs 1974.77 cr have been sanctioned in the district.

Regarding component-wise status of the implementation of the JJM works, it was informed that out of 205 borewells, the work on 196 borewells is completed. As for the dugwells, out of 24, work on 2 is completed, while the rest are in progress. Additionally, out of 107 rapid sand filtration plants, work on 99 has been initiated. Further-



more, under Overhead Tanks (OHTs), out of 9, 5 have been completed.

To accelerate the implementation of these schemes, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to adopt a results-driven approach, adhering to strict timelines. Through focused efforts and dedicated work, the mission is rapidly transforming into a reality, promising a healthier and happier life for the residents of the region.

For the schemes where the work has not been started yet, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to promptly address issues hindering the initiation of work on

such schemes. Ensuring a swift resolution, he emphasized the need for immediate action to kickstart the projects at the earliest.

The DC emphasized the need for a holistic approach towards water management, emphasizing that it is not just about providing access to clean drinking water but also about preserving and sustainably utilizing these vital resources.

This meeting was a testament to the commitment of the District Administration to implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission effectively, ensuring that rural areas have access to a basic necessity - clean

drinking water.

Overall the meeting was a constructive platform for officers to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and find solutions to the challenges facing the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Deputy Commissioner directed them to continue working with dedication and commitment to achieve the mission's objectives.

CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; XEN Jal Shakti Nowshera, Vipin Kumar; EXEN Jal Shakti Mechanical, Manoj Gupta and AEEs of the Jal Shakti Department attended the meeting.

Union MoS visits Jammu; Reviews working of J&K Forest Department

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ashwani Kumar Choubey, who is on a two day tour to the Union Territory, today reviewed the working of J&K Forest Department in a high level meeting held here.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Roshan Jaggi and other senior officers participated in the meeting.

Union Minister emphasized to promote the concept of Nagar Vans in Jammu and Kashmir aimed to enhance the tree cover outside forests besides extension of biodiversity and ecological benefits to urban and pre-urban areas. He appreciated the involvement of PRI representatives, local people, NGOs, school children, NCC and NSS cadets, Paryavaran/Van Mitras, eco guides, paramilitary forces and other stakeholders around all the Gram Panchayats and villages besides Urban Local Bodies in afforestation and



other activities.

During the meeting, different issues concerning the projects supported by Central Ministry (MoECC) were brought to the notice of the Union Minister by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. These included release of funds under Nagar van scheme, Green India Mission and Forest fire Protection and Management scheme.

The PCCF (HoFF) also apprised the Union MoS of the progress, made so far, to achieve the targets under different deliverables assigned by the government especially under the flagship programs like Green J&K Drive, Har Gaon Hariyali, Ped Lagayen Beti Ke Naam, One Village One Beat Guard Program, Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan, Demarcation and Strengthening of Forest Boundaries in J&K.

It was informed that, presently, a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) are operational in J&K with 100 percent support from Centre government like Green India Mission (GIM), which is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with an aim of protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

Besides, a total of 4775 hectare of identified landscape has been covered and planted with 16.94 lakh tree saplings at a cost of Rs 29.61 crore, so far. It was further informed that, J&K Forest Department has decided to develop at least one Nagar Van / Nagar Vatika in each ULB

of the UT under the Nagar Van Yojna J&K. Besides, there are 80 ULBs which include 02 Municipal Corporations, out of these, 43 ULBs have been covered under the NVY scheme and the work on remaining 37 is under progress. During the current financial year, Rs 98.3 lakh have also been released to combat forest fires under 'Forest Fire Prevention and Management' scheme.

Later, the Union MoS also inspected one of the Nagar Vans in Roop Nagar area of Jammu City and planted a sapling there. Pertinently, the Forest department has been given the ever highest target of planting 175 lakh plants during 2023-24 both on forest and non-forest land with the active involvement of local people and PRI representatives.